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JANUARY 12 2004

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THE LOWDOWN ON MARKS

If a pass-fail grade system is so good for our kids, why isn't that true for adults?

IN THE MOST of all the, one highlight of the pre-Christmas rush at our house was the arrival of my daughter's kindergarten report card. She got high praise for her reading, vocabulary and overall enthusiasm. On the other hand, she has work to do on her mathematics (think of her math) facility with the computer and attention span. We deduce these things in spite of the fact that the meticulously detailed handwritten report her

teachers prepared is almost of any degree or issues that might be considered as negative in describing her efforts. A number system indicates how she's measuring up on each area, but it's devoid of any mention of pass or fail. Everything stands for positive reinforcement: it's just that some areas, when you parse the phrasing closely, are much more positive than others.

All of which seems to make my daughter's school neither fish nor fowl when it comes to the subject of our cover package—the debate over the merits of giving formal grades to kids. At one level, the pros and cons are obvious. A grade system provides a straightforward feedback by which to measure how your child is progressing at school—and how her or he is doing compared to other children. But as writer Sue Ferguson—herself the mother of two children—nots, “Grades can be highly deceptive.” The aim should be “to measure learning, not simply what a student can recall on a test.” The two aren't the same—and if you doubt that, ask an adult, ask yourself whether you could do school without any preparation and still pass those high school-level examinations in, say, trigonometry or biology.

If you're still confused—meaning you were a student at the present of one in the 1970s—you've been through this debate before. Then, it took place—or so it seems in retrospect—without the context of those media times, meaning that it was considered unfair to put children in direct competition with one another if it could be avoided. The intent behind that may have been commendable (though I don't agree), but it ignored the fact that competition, and the will to compete on one's own, are essential components of the human condition. It's like those kids' sports leagues where the organizers

“Ask yourself whether you could still pass those high-school examinations in, say, trigonometry or biology.”

decide that they won't keep score so that there are no winners and losers—eventually, the kids, in the absence of scorekeepers, do so themselves.

This time around, as Ferguson notes, of course working with a no-grades approach emphasizes different reasons—such as “focusing on the developmental stages in learning, [and] measuring students progress in terms of how well kids apply what they've learned.” The thing is, this approach is much more commonplace in the adult workplace than is the traditional painful system we impose on our children. Many workplaces, after all, conduct regular employee evaluations in which workers are told areas in which they excel, and those in which they need more training or improvement. There are usually fairly rigorous lines governing what an employer can tell an employee in these evaluations—and even then, negative evaluations can be challenged by the employee. Not sure where you sit on the debate over the grade system, then, the real question is this: if it's so good for kids, why isn't that also true for adults?

Anthony Wilson-Smith

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MACLEAN'S BEHIND THE SCENES



AWARD-WINNING ILLUSTRATION

"As my daughter dives deeper into the whirlpool of her teenage years, I often tell her that I must be the envy of other fathers. I am in prison and the razor wire keeps me safe. Under the watchful eyes of visiting room guards, our black humor is what we share best."

These are the opening lines from Maclean's June 16th, 2003 Over to You article entitled "A Father's Day Lesson" by Stephen Reid. The illustration (above) that accompanies the piece, was recently selected to be showcased in the prestigious 40th Annual Exhibition of the Society of Illustrators in New York City. Selection for the exhibition confers significant prestige within the international illustration community on artist Jon Blume, who was commissioned to create the piece by Maclean's. The Canadian-based artist's work appears in publications throughout the United States and Europe, such as *The New Yorker* and *Rolling Stone*.

After being put in jail for robbing a bank to feed his "monster heroin and cocaine habit," Reid shares with Maclean's readers the touching story of how he attempts to maintain a relationship with his daughter.

"This was a wonderful commission because it was a very heartfelt story," says Morse. "It's rewarding to be given the opportunity to take great text and then make an image that allows me to get involved with culture on a visual level. *Maclean's* brings a great thing to Canadian journalism: the marriage of text with strong visuals."

"It's gratifying to see the artists that create work for our magazine getting this type of recognition—especially when it's related to a portion of the magazine that lets our readers speak to other readers," says Art Director Donna Braggins. "It demonstrates that *Maclean's* is committed to showcasing the best talent in Canada and the rest of the world."

Maclean's was also recently recognized by the Advertising & Design Club of Canada for visual excellence in illustration and other categories. Visit www.macleans.ca. For further information about this article, contact: behindthescenes@macleans.ca.

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everything is possible



"I found it very interesting that no devout Christians were consulted in your cover article concerning the "truth about Christmas." —Jed Field, Toronto



Canada's reserve forces face the same dangers as the regular forces—with less recognition

No reservations

As a reservist who returned home from a peacekeeping tour in 1995 to no one who understood what I had exchanged (a year at university, time with my loved ones) for the opportunity to serve Canada abroad, stories like the one written by Danylo Havashchuk warm my heart. ("Hiding a blast," *Military*, Dec. 22). They also make me believe that Canadians do care about the challenges members of the Canadian Forces (regular and reserve) face at home and abroad.

Col. James Gedick, 2 Intelligence Platoon, Ontario

Finally an article about Canada's dedicated reserve forces. The reserves face the same dangers as the regular forces when serving overseas, but receive little or no public recognition of their efforts. Through years of neglect the reserves have made do with overinflated and inadequate equipment and a lack of ammunition to hone their skills. These reserves and reserves represent some of the finest and bravest warriors in Canada.

David Cameron, Millbrook, Ont.

Christmas story

What a tender and sensitive approach to the "meat" of Christmas in our day ("The truth

about Christmas," *Cover*, Dec. 22). Congrats to authors and appreciations. However, may I point out that more than just the "hope pre-empted in a newborn babe" gives Christmas its significance. Namely, Christmas declares that deity exists in communion with humanity, and that the deepest and richest ideals that are of value to deity are those that are most humbly human and desirable about us.

Michael O'Brien, Vancouver, B.C.

In a time of worsening intolerance, ongoing religious wars and increasing hate, "The truth about Christmas" shone through.

Old-time religion: Our film critic's comments cause a storm

Being a St. John's-based insider, the verdict of A. K. Tolson, *Reviewers* editor, who wrote that *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King* is like "Hansel and Gretel on crack" (Dec. 22), a number of readers surprised that John's was written by Tolson, *Reviewers* editor, that it, while he was disturbed by the movie's "thematic view of holy war," it still made his Top 50 list.

ingly. You allowed us a unique look into other cultures and religions, new Canadians with open minds, mixing centuries old tradition with our generalized Canadian way. Thanks for a great Christmas story.

Karl Clark, Clayton Valley, B.C.

There was one glaring omission in the otherwise excellent coverage. We read about how everyone, from officials to people of the great new Christmas faith traditions to non-observant academics, deal with Christmas. What about practicing Christians? Christians celebrate the season? We often feel as alienated as do our Muslim, Jewish or Hindu friends, by what passes for Christmas in our culture. As Brian Bellamy points out, Christmas isn't the "big day" for us—that's Good Friday and Easter. Still, there are many rich Christmas traditions and spiritual practices within a variety of Christian communities that would contribute significantly to any discussion about "The truth about Christmas."

Rev. David Williams, St. John's United Church, Moncton, N.S.

Readers of this article were thus allowed this warning in church as an example of modern-day thinking and ignorance on the subject of Christmas. The congregation only shook their heads in disbelief and dismay.

Bill Sillville, Grimsby, Ont.

We cannot take the Christ out of Christmas any more than we can take the Lord out of Hindu/Muslim/Allah out of Ramadan. It cannot be done. Even Santa Claus believed in Jesus as God's Son.

Rev. Steve Boppre, Wellesley, Ont.

The oldest, grandest story

After reading Brian D. Johnson's review of *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King* ("Master of all creatures," *Reviews*, Dec. 22), I feel he has not fairly conveyed the point of allegory and metaphor in his otherwise colorful piece. The battles in LOTR are not ethnic or political war do they have any such symbolic meaning. They are symbolic of the battle between good and evil—strapped, of course by Tolkien's Christian tradition. One could equally make that the co-existence of evil, dwarf and human shown here for humanity in building a better world where different races join together to promote the common good and withstand evil. Has it not to director Peter Jackson for bringing Tolkien

to the masses and for inducing our imaginations with a bit of hope that Christmas is *Brant Hodges, Mississauga, N.B.*

I love to help children that Brian D. Johnson's review of *The Lord of the Rings* has far more to do with his paternalistic social relativism than with the content of the movie. It's easy to mock the many modernist crusades in our world, but since in a while things like the wage and good over evil really matter—in real life as well as in the movies. At least Tolkien understood that.

Ryan J. Burt, High River, Alta.

Since it was director Peter Jackson's goal to bring to the fore the original books, then any viewer he had in concerning the triumphant battles in the movie with a Christian facing of good and evil showed his will in filmmaking. The first, Tolkien was himself a devout Christian and his books were written with many allegories intended to point toward Christianity.

Alan Davidson, Calgary

Brian D. Johnson is right, he's not a Tolkien fan. However, he would know and understand that the story is not flat, and that was—knowing what he knew—the whole story. *The Lord of the Rings* is a magnificent piece of filmmaking based on an unforgivable piece of literature. Thank goodness there are more faithful fans out there.

Maya Bhatia, Edmonton

At home entertainment

There's another reason why big screen TVs are becoming so popular ("TV or net TV?" *Business*, Dec. 22). The increasing cost and declining enjoyment of casually going to a movie theatre. Build your own home theatre (including 99 inch screen) for about \$2,500. Factor in the price of a dinner and movie evening, plus babysitting, and it won't take long before any investment starts paying off. And I can relax better in my theatre.

Mark Parker, Brampton, Ont.

Through a child's eyes

My wife and I thoroughly enjoyed Jennifer Cole's tale of her adventure galling with zombies ("Playing with a Dead Day," *Over to You*, Dec. 1). Really, back in the early '80s, we took our children to the annual Christmas party at Joyceville Park—story to the inmates



Angry lights for good in LOTR's battles

celebrated with young mentally handicapped residents of several group homes in Kingston, Ont. (Our adult son was a resident of such a home.) Our youngest daughter, then seven or eight, after several days with a number of the "boots," asked when she would see some inmates? He had spent two hours with some interesting fellows who seemed so different than other kids of her parents. Like Jennifer Cole, our daughter had pronounced ideas of when she would find. Like Jennifer, the found one who showed "astonishing."

David Mitchell, North York, Ont.

No robes

Interesting that it is uncovered by A. K. Tolson (*The Mail*, Dec. 22) that physicians' salaries increased by just 12 per cent in 38 years (for 1.2 per cent per year). Observations on Ontario, my wife being one, have recorded any per cent increases since 1989 (which is zero per cent per year). If any callousness are correct. One must wonder why someone would pursue such a career knowing that very expensive equipment has to be purchased or upgraded, salaries salaries have to be paid (of course, annual increases are expected), money has to be spent for mandatory continuing education, etc., suggesting they start to successfully manage their business no matter what the rate of inflation is. I am off to all professions in the same boat, and a golden raspberry to the politicians who can vote for their own salary increases.

Charles G. G. G. G. G.

Dispelling the myths



Myth 6 Alzheimer Disease is a preventable.

Reality: There is no conclusive evidence that Alzheimer Disease can be prevented, but lifestyle choices that keep mind and body fit may help reduce the risk.

There are many myths surrounding Alzheimer Disease—about the cause, the prevention and the people who have it.

Get the facts.

Visit our Web site at www.alzheimer.ca or contact your local Alzheimer Society.

Alzheimer Society

As a national sponsor, Joey's Only Seafood Restaurants supports the Alzheimer Society through the sale of their fish and seafood during the month of January which is Alzheimer Awareness month.

This advertisement has been paid for by Joey's Only Seafood Restaurants.



Disaster | Iran's earthquake tugs at the world's heart

In ancient times, the devastation visited upon the Iranian city of Bam would almost certainly have been seen as God's will. After all, the desert floor shook violently for about a minute and a half, and then swallowed up almost an entire population—nearly 30,000 confirmed dead, another 70,000 or so missing. Iran is not blessed in the rains. But there are modern times. We know all about earthquakes—this is Iran's 50th in 35 years, the one in Gilan in 1990 claimed almost 40,000 lives. The damage in Iran revealed only the kind of pain that transcends borders and is a huge signpost of universal loss.

Canada sent 35 crates of emergency supplies, relief workers and emergency crews with aid funds flew in from Europe, the Far East, South Africa and—surprise to some—the U.S. as if it was being led in by the official meeting with Iranian authorities sent representatives outside the Shin and took 52 American hostages in 1979.

Recovery efforts unearthed thousands of bodies, subsequently re-buried in mass graves. And the mud-brick buildings collapsed,



death in the rubble, and got out a mass grave in Iran, about 1,000 km southeast of Tehran.

victim choked on his face. Still, one mother dug up her son two days after the quake, her dead mother's body having created a pocket of air. Three other survivors were brought to the surface after a week underground, a miracle by any standard.

Once a feared conqueror in the Silk Road between Europe and China, Iran now turns an address, its proud people reduced to huddling in makeshift tents and burying their dead amid the kindness of strangers.

ScoreCard

A Paul Martin
The Prime Minister gets a boost out of the growing Alberta's Right Way about red cars. It's not necessarily "very pleased," but it's a boost, at least.

V Canadian Alliance
Opposition leader Jean Charest's demand that Martin cut short his visit to the U.S. is a boost for the party. But it's a boost for the party, not for the country.

V World Council of Churches
The World Council of Churches is a boost for the party. But it's a boost for the party, not for the country.

A Adrienne Clarkson
The Governor General's new role as a symbol of unity is a boost for the party. But it's a boost for the party, not for the country.

A Sidney Crosby
The 18-year-old star of the Oilers is a boost for the party. But it's a boost for the party, not for the country.



Mary Janigan | ON THE ISSUES



ASLEEP, AT LEAST FOR NOW

Although the threat of Quebec separation has receded, federalists should be vigilant

THE PROJECT was deliciously ironic. In September 1999, after taking a university course in Canadian studies, Jean Aubrey did something that had to be done: to enhance national unity. So he visited Peterborough, Ont., residents and four long-time friends started reading current letters. Heberich's translation into French, so strange they selected from Quebec telephone directories. The letters were charming, calling for mutual understanding and asking for the region's thoughts on how to improve English-French relations.

Over 410 pages, Aubrey, now 93, and his elderly husband sent 4,000 letters to his own province. They received 40 replies, mostly from federalists. Undaunted, the former accountant and his resident band began writing and last April, when Liberal Jean Charest was elected Quebec premier, "We felt Charest would support Quebec's interests within Canada," he says. "So we felt we would be wasting our time."

It is a curiosity that some way will be found for an issue. But we are at a rare point of relative peace. In a Montreal newspaper, conducted by Strazzer, Gosselin, a man in power in Canada's national unity, a man in power in Canada's national unity, a man in power in Canada's national unity.

"A man in power in Canada's national unity, a man in power in Canada's national unity, a man in power in Canada's national unity."

Mary Janigan is a political and policy writer. Her e-mail address is mjanigan@shaw.ca.

and Intergovernmental Affairs. The commission has been and will be because of it. It is now negotiating with the provinces to reform the constitution. It is an ambitious project. In the mid-1990s, against seemingly impossible odds, the Quebec minister was prominent co-operation for the National Council of Ministers, which provides payments to lower-income levels. Quebec did not officially agree, but also effectively participated in the program. "Participate is not a commitment," says the minister. "It is a commitment to the program." "Participate is not a commitment," says the minister. "It is a commitment to the program."

The province are doing their best for many. Too early last month, provincial and federal leaders put the final touches on their Council of the Federation, which will bring them together twice a year and create an Ottawa-based secretariat. The federal government is not a member. But perhaps Quebec would say that Ottawa was "This is a great deal. Quebec is doing with equals in terms of social policy," says Quebec's University of Ottawa. "This is a great deal. Quebec is doing with equals in terms of social policy."

None of this means we can all go back to sleep. Aubrey and his cohorts are now working with the local school board to ensure that teenagers have developmentally appropriate work for their own projects in their region. "We want to provide another chance for Quebec," says the minister. "We want to provide another chance for Quebec."

Mary Janigan is a political and policy writer. Her e-mail address is mjanigan@shaw.ca.

FaceTime



Accused child molester Michael Jackson was seen on television for the first time in a long time. He was seen on television for the first time in a long time. He was seen on television for the first time in a long time.



Former Saskatchewan premier Richard Mulroney was seen on television for the first time in a long time. He was seen on television for the first time in a long time. He was seen on television for the first time in a long time.

OnSpec

The design says the design that plays together says nothing. Federal NDP leader Jack Layton is looking to take that to a new level in the election that is widely expected this spring. Layton is set to run in the "Toronto" riding of Ontario.



He is a political figure. He is a political figure. He is a political figure. He is a political figure. He is a political figure.

Quote of the week | 'An American bull sniffing a Canadian cow doesn't ask for that cow's national identity.' Alberta Premier **RAULPH KLEIN** trying to cool the 1999 border angst over the latest mad cow crisis

WORLD

LETTERBOMBS Emergency police were hunting down a cell of Italian anarchists believed to be responsible for a series of four letter bombs sent to government officials and top crime figures. One bomb, packed in the gaudy outer letters of a book, burst into flames in the hands of European Commission President Romano Prodi. News was scarcely hurt.

DEMOCRACY Arrivals of more than 100,000 people jammed the streets of Hong Kong on New Year's Day demanding more local autonomy in a replay of the pro-democracy marches that staggered Beijing in July. The protests also followed a decision in Taiwan to produce a controversial referendum on which China had said it would sit to promote independence.

SKY MARSHALS Citing evidence of an impending terrorist attack, U.S. authorities forced international airlines to port armed guards during air screenings on selected flights entering U.S. airspace. Some claim that, Canada among them, already had a system of armed sky marshals on flights headed to Washington, but the new rules provoked a huge debate in Europe and almost

a dozen holiday flights from Britain, Mexico and France were cancelled because of hijacking concerns. One involved an Air France flight that was detained in Newfoundland for several hours.

SETTLEMENTS Israel began evacuating four mostly Arab-owned airfield outposts on the West Bank in an attempt to keep peace momentum alive with Palestinians. At the same time Israel announced a \$125-million scheme to expand commerce on the Golan Heights, an disputed land it seized from Syria during the 1967 war.

BURUNDI African ambassador Michael Courney, a 58-year-old Irish archbishop, was shot and killed while driving back to his home in the capital Bujumbura from a funeral. Church officials in Rwanda described the killings as execution by Hutu rebels who feared the change.

ULTRA-NATIONALISM Serbia's anticipated reintegration into the European Union suffered a setback when parliamentarians declined to ratify the resurgence of two extremist

parties, both headed by men currently facing trial for war crimes. EU leaders urged Serbia's backing pro-democracy parties to unite to keep the nationalists from power.

FRAGS In what has been described as one of the world's most bizarre corporate frauds, Italian police arrested Calisto Tanzi, founder of the international food conglomerate Parmalat SpA, for siphoning off as much as \$1.5 billion from company books. The now insolvent Parmalat controls such well-known Canadian brands as Bacio yogurt, Lactina butter and Black Diamond cheese.

LIBYA UN inspectors visited Iraq previously seen at nuclear sites near Tripoli, confirming Libya was in the early stages of developing a nuclear bomb. Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi recently announced his country was abandoning any attempt to develop weapons of mass destruction, partly in a move to force Israel to acknowledge it has its own nuclear program.

IRAQ Disputed Iraqi Saddam Hussein has admitted squandering a big staggering \$28.40 billion in personal bank accounts in Europe and the free West, according to Iraqi officials. If true, the revelation could hamper U.S. attempts to get international nations

to dig up much of Iraq's allegedly US\$120-billion in outstanding debt.

In northern Iraq, Kurds fought with other Iraqis during a bitter street demonstration in the town of Kirkuk, leaving two dead. Kurdish legislators are demanding sovereignty for the control over resource development and troop movement in their region.

SCIENCE | HEALTH

SARS Chinese health authorities quarantined 31 people and believed they had found their first new case of SARS, a 32-year-old TV producer, in the northern province of Guangdong, where the deadly disease first took root.

SPINDRIPS The U.S. banned the weight-loss supplement ephedra, an adrenaline-like stimulant that boosts blood pressure and can provoke heart attacks and strokes, particularly in hot weather. Canada recalled ephedra-based diet aids two years ago but allows the drug to be used in decongestants.

REBENTON A provocative new Swedish study says children who undergo CT scans for head injuries can develop serious learning difficulties. It was based on 3,094 males who underwent radiation treatment for brain tumors between 1930 and 1959.

MARS European scientists altered the route of their Mars-orbiting spacecraft in an attempt to find Beagle 2, a prime-sized planetary rover that was lost to the red planet for Christmas Day but has not been able to call home since.

CANADA

DRIVE RAIDS In a dramatic swoop, RCMP stormed legislative offices of two B.C. cabinet ministers and seized cars of five, part of a 20-month probe into real-estate smuggling and money laundering. No arrests were made and police were quick to say they were not investigating any politicians. The raids focused on the affair of one high-ranking ministerial aide, both heavily involved in Paul Martin's Liberal leadership campaign on the West Coast. Police also raided the home of Bruce Clerk, the brother of B.C. independent premier and a top fundraiser for the federal Liberal party.



THE FULL MONTY

A 3.6-m-long python, said to have eaten an alligator for its all dogs, was put on display in a village zoo in the central Indian state of Bihar. Tanned to be the largest python in captivity, the 400-lb snake was captured a year ago by a remote blue bird and it is a good luck charm.

STRANDERS At least 36 landed immigrants were barred from entering Canada because they were not carrying the new permanent resident cards that came into effect Dec. 31. Overseas visa officers were providing temporary travel documents in most cases and some travellers were subjected to more stringent interviews on arrival. So far \$3,500,000 of Canada's 1.5 million landed immigrants have the new ID card.

MURDER CITY A weekend killing spree of three young people, two of the deaths gang-

related, brought Toronto's murder total for the year to 65, which may be the highest in the country when all cases are tallied. The U.S. city with the most murder last year was Chicago, which barely slightly larger than Toronto. It had 599 homicides.

LAWYER The Canadian family of Ahmed Khadr and his son Abdul-Karim, who were missing during a raid against alleged al-Qaeda agents in Pakistan, sued the Musharraf government for information on their whereabouts. Another son is in the U.S. detention camp in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, while a third, Abdul-Karim, was released from detention last month and returned to Toronto.

POLITICS In one of his first executive acts, Prime Minister Paul Martin froze pay increases for public servants but increased the salaries of thirteen senior political staff by \$32,000 a year. Check of staff to cabinet ministers was now set to rise to \$147,500, which is \$12,000 more than elected MPs.

BY SERGE CHAPLEAU



D'ANGER PAV

Spotting a bearded, portly soldier in a crowd last week, Gen. Gen. Adrienne Clouston spent an informal New Year's with the Canadian peacekeepers. Clouston's visit came as Taliban fighters threatened the rights to fight it with attacks of Islamic terrorism, and leaving a long shadow of rebels by Christmas, U.S. and allied troops.

Mansbridge on the Record



WAITING FOR THE CULL

Farmers face the unthinkable task of exterminating older, surplus cows

AS A CITY FELLOW, I've never been good at understanding things down on the farm. I figured that again the other day when I had to ask a farmer which one was the bull in his packed dairy barn. He was kind enough to make the distinction without a headlamp, and then we moved on to an adjoining building. To me, all looked normal inside: dozens of dairy cows standing there, pushing their heads into the trough, gulping their feed. But to those who actually know the business, there were other signs: evidence that made the cows expendable—such as age, bone structure and productivity, to name a few.

"They were what the farming industry calls 'cull'd cows,'" their useful days in the barn had been that usually they'd be heading down a feed-lot corridor built by now. But what was once "cull'd" now feels like a long time ago—back before last May, when cattle farmers were enjoying a much different time than they enjoy at present. The industry and fear of mad cow had dumped a year of life. Cull'd cows are a normal part of the Canadian farm picture: in Ontario alone, upwards of 300,000 cows are culled each year. Most head south of the border to be slaughtered and ground into hamburger. Some of a then-crisis north again to satisfy burger eaters in this country. But since May, the border has been closed to live animals, and that's meant a huge backlog of cull'd cows and, in turn, lower prices.

At one rural live-auction house, where cull'd cows were fetching 70 cents a pound in May, the few bidders in attendance last week were paying as little as seven cents a pound. On a 1,000-pound animal, you do

“We have big hearts,” says one dairy farmer. “We don’t raise animals to shoot them, but we’re close to the breaking point.”

the math. As one farmer told me, “It took these pay folks how they’d feel if their salary went from \$30 an hour to five.”

The big issue is what to do with cull'd cows that aren't selling and cost money to keep. It is an issue, one that could get a lot more critical as we head deeper into winter. One farm I visited normally holds about 20 cull'd cows at any one time, waiting for weekly auctions. Now, it has more than 300, an untenable situation. The pasture and ability of farmers to house and feed animals destined for slaughter are running very low. Ralph Klein's "shoot, shovel and shut up" motto is silent yet approving nod when spoken of on this issue these days. But as one dairy farmer told me, "We have big hearts. We don't raise animals to shoot them, but we're close to the breaking point." With that, she pointed to a barn burning with cattle, more milk than goats will allow her to sell, new calves born almost daily, and nowhere for the overflow.

Every farmer has solutions, and it usually starts with Ottawa. But how extended the federal government is in organizing the slaughter, processing and sale or even in seasonal growing of thousands of healthy but past their prime animals is an open question. What's clear is that farmers have a big problem that won't go away.

Cull'd cows are just one part of the mad cow story so much more involved here, from the inspection process to feed prohibitions to human health concerns to international trade standards. But the sight of these cows waiting for an uncertain death, and the farmers who so with them was a better answer, stick with you.

One last statistic: At this writing, the British Columbian cow crisis was discovering 1,000 new cases a week. In North America, there have now been two isolated cases in a year. ■

Peter Mansbridge is Chief Correspondent of CBC Television News and Anchor of The National. To comment: letters@newsweek.ca

Passages

DESTROYED In what may be the largest charitable donation in Canadian history, former Laidlaw owner Michael McGreave, 70, a high-school dropout who made his riches with school buses and heading perhaps, pledged \$106 million to the McMaster University medical school in Hamilton his hometown.

HONOURD Canada's female elite of the past, as chosen in a Canadian Press poll of sports editors and broadcasters, **Freddie**



Fishelson, 33, was a largely unheralded sprinter from Pickering, Ont., until she won the 100 in hurdles world championships in Paris in August, becoming the first Canadian woman to win gold in an international track event.

DIED Wisconsin writer and gallery curator **Burt Shaskin** (who says to have changed Canadian "perceptions of Native art through her occasional work and books on artists including **Red Bull**). She died of a heart attack, at 85, while on vacation in Mexico.

Award-winning **Saskatoon** was poet **John Newlove** died suddenly of a brain tumor. **champion** **Chenoweth**, at 65, had been a teacher, social worker, lobbyist, federal government employee and a book editor.

DIED **Alvin Karpis**, one of the angry young men of British theatre who moved from the stage to numerous cinematic successes starting in the 1960s, died at 69 after a long battle with cancer.

Newline and screenwriter **John Dumas**, whose cinematic collaborations with his wife, **Joan Dixon**, produced such hits as *A Star Is Born* and *Up Close and Personal*, died at 71 of a heart attack. **Wish** **Marshall** home. **Elton** **King** pop duo **Avril** **May**, whose melodic style was embraced by the Chinese speaking world, died at 40 of complications from cervical cancer.

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THE UNKNOWN WAR

In their battle against government troops, rebels force children to fight—and die

War has ravaged northern Uganda since 1987, when the newly formed Lord's Resistance Army began its rebel campaign against the government. While the horror has been widespread, children have particularly suffered as the LRA has abducted them and forced them into war. In this special feature for *National Geographic*, the first in a series examining the impact of war in Uganda, Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo, Samantha Hutt and Eric Hoskins of War Child Canada, both doctors with extensive experience working in war zones, report on the plight of the young in northern Uganda.

Kibela Okya is 10. He walks in a dazed, nervous state in the growing crowd of children he will lose sight of his older sister just ahead. He takes a minute to reposition his bag, a baggie sack on his back that runs the full length of his tiny frame, then disappears into the night.

Except for the rare generator-powered light bulb, the caves of Itang cave in northern

Uganda, near the Sudanese border, a dark hell, those children know their way, because it is an all too familiar journey. They are among some 40,000 children who have been recruited along the roads of this zone, known locally as Acholi, every night for more than a year. They are known as the "night comers," and their lives bear witness to one of the most brutal and senseless emergencies

to hit this corner of Africa in recent years. Every evening, the children trek from their rural villages into the downtown centers of larger towns to sleep wherever they can—on churches and public parks, on street verandas or the floors of overcrowded hospitals. The process leaves their vulnerable to disease and abuse, but as bad as it is, the alternative is worse: staying home and risking abduction by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), a rebel group active in northern Uganda since 1987.

The LRA has abducted more than 20,000 children since the beginning of the conflict, with almost half of them born in the past 18 months alone. Attacking mostly at night, the rebels have indiscriminately looted



To evade the LRA, rural kids sleep at a stone veranda in town; boys arrive at the GUSCO center after being rescued from rebels (opposite)

and homes, raping and killing, forcing children into LRA camps in southern Sudan, close to the Ugandan border. There, under the command of self-declared prophet and LRA leader Joseph Kony, the boys, some as young as six, are taught to fire Kalashnikov rifles, while girls become cooks, servants or porters—and sometimes fighters. Even worse, the vast majority of abducted girls are pushed into sexual slavery, sometimes through forced "marriages" to LRA commanders, some even before they have attained menarche. More than 80 percent of those fighting with the LRA—which is on the U.S. Department of State's list of terrorist organizations—are believed to be abducted children.

CONEY, 18, is currently living in a rehabilitation center for formerly abducted children in the town of Gulu in the district of the same name, some 130 km from the Sudanese border. She was 12 when the LRA attacked her village, burning her family's hut, raping her mother and abducting her father. As Coney sits to console her 16-month-old

child, she explains that "four of my brothers and sisters were abducted." As was she. "When we arrived at the training camp, I was under the wife of a sergeant. He was 36 years old." At 15, she gave birth to her first child while still in LRA captivity. But in December, after learning that the sergeant had been shot, she managed to escape, fleeing with her baby back to Uganda, where she was reunited to the Ugandan army. She is now undergoing a six-week counseling program.

The staff at the Gulu Support the Children Organization (GUSCO), which runs the center, acknowledge that child mothers like Coney are their biggest challenge. Counselors do their best to teach parenting skills, but the trauma experienced at the hands of the LRA is difficult, if not impossible, to overcome. The future is bleak for other reasons as well. Like other formerly abducted children, the young women are burdened with problems that can only lead to further desperation and despair. Little or no education, few marketable skills, and, in many instances, no families to support them. And

while HIV testing is voluntary, nearly half of these young women who agree to be checked are found to be HIV positive.

Violet, 18, shares a large tent with Coney and more than 50 other young girls at the GUSCO camp. At 14, she was abducted by the LRA along with her younger brother (who was later killed in battle). An LRA commander gave Violet a gun and asked if she would rather fight or die. She chose the former. During an attack against the Ugandan army last fall, she was shot in the face and left for dead. She is now missing an eye, a thick scar runs across her right eyebrow and down to her painfully swollen jaw. Tears constantly flow down the side of her face because of damage to a nerve. "My parents didn't want me," Violet says, wiping her cheek. "It is very difficult for them to care for me. And if the LRA finds me, they will kill me."

Like Violet's family, an estimated one million people, roughly 80 to 90 per cent of the population in northern Uganda, are living in these camps for "internally displaced persons" (IDPs). Conditions are appalling,

A BLEAK NEW YEAR

But the U.S. outbreak might help Canadian producers, BRIAN BERGMAN reports

THE TIMING could scarcely have been worse. For seven months, Canada's beef industry reeled from the body blow delivered on May 20 when a six-year-old Angus beef cow in northern Alberta was diagnosed with bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), better known as mad cow disease. Nearly 30 countries, including the United States, asked their barriers to Canadian beef, sending in an estimated \$1.6 billion in lost export sales. Still, as the new year approached, Canadian cattlemen had reason to be guardedly optimistic: The U.S., which normally accounts for 77 per cent of all Canadian beef exports, had already agreed to accept some borderless meat cuts from cattle under 30 months of age—animals considered too young to contract BSE. The Americans were also expected to remove, by early 2004, a ban on shipping young, live cattle—a crucial step in getting Canada's \$7.6-billion-a-year beef industry back on its feet.



The latest BSE case prompted the U.S. to erect stricter and mad cow measures

With prices again plunging and U.S. producers' groups clamoring to restrict the ban on live cattle, Canadian optimism faded for a bleak new year. But amidst the deep clouds of uncertainty, a few silver linings can be glimpsed—including the possibility the U.S. won't ultimately give Canada the leverage to get its borders re-opened.

Now it's for one thing, the Americans can no longer adopt shodder than their standards. Privately, Canadian officials have been writing their U.S. counterparts May 20 as "if it can happen here, it can happen there." Now, it's for one thing, the Americans can no longer adopt shodder than their standards. Privately, Canadian officials have been writing their U.S. counterparts May 20 as "if it can happen here, it can happen there." Now, it's for one thing, the Americans can no longer adopt shodder than their standards. Privately, Canadian officials have been writing their U.S. counterparts May 20 as "if it can happen here, it can happen there."

Recent days also demonstrated that, if anything, efforts to police BSE have been more lax in the United States. Canada announced a national identification system for

tracking cattle nearly two years ago, the U.S. did so only last week. In May, Alberta's deposed beef cow was kept out of the food chain after an inspector noticed it looked underweight and deemed it to be suffering from pruritus and thus unfit for human consumption (routine tests later detected the presence of BSE). The Madison, Wash., Halstein was also a "downer"—an animal unable to walk on its own—but, this time, some of the slaughtered meat got shipped to several states before the BSE diagnosis was made (the meat was later recalled).

Last week, U.S. Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman announced several new public health and surveillance measures that mirror steps already underway by Canada. In addition to the new national tracking system, Veneman prohibited brain and nervous system tissues—known to be harbor BSE—from older animals from entering the food supply. There are also indications the U.S. and Canada may move, in unison, to ensure removal of cattle from end up, as they move east, in the feed of other farm animals, such as pigs and chickens, insuring the risk they could be passed back onto beef.

Alberta Beef Producers chairman Anne Desrochers is encouraging that U.S. officials are finally recognizing BSE as a North American problem, not a just Canadian one. "We've been saying all along that what we have here is a deeply integrated market and we have to work together on this," he says. Desrochers, who operates a cow/calf and feed lot operation about 140 km east of Calgary, adds that it might be difficult for Americans to justify restricting a ban on Canadian beef while asking other trading partners to lift their prohibitions on U.S. beef.

A challenge for authorities on both sides of the border is the issue of consumer confidence. After the initial scare, the official mantra became that it was "one lone cow"—an isolated incident that posed no public health risk. But now there are at least two



Responding to the U.S. case, Canada only imposed a partial ban on American imports

mad cows, and there could be many more cow than as yet undetected. How many more? David Westaway, a microbiologist at the University of Toronto's avian disease and zoonotic disease center, thinks it could number in the hundreds. We simply don't know, says Westaway, because of what he sees as a woefully inadequate level of BSE testing: while European nations test about one animal in four taken to slaughter, the ratio in Canada has traditionally been more like one in 1,000, and even less in the U.S.

Westaway told Madcow last week he's baffled why there's no mass testing, especially when it can be done for as little as \$20 an animal. "Some people genuinely believe the disease isn't there, while others think testing costs too much," he says. "The least desirable view is that, if one doesn't do a lot of testing, one isn't going to get unpleasant surprises." If that's the end of the rationale, recent events suggest it may be backfiring.

WELCOME TO YOUR JOB, MR. MINISTER

It wasn't the sort of surprise that brightens the holiday mood. Bob Speller, formerly married fed and agriculture minister, had just landed at Toronto's Pearson Airport on the afternoon of Dec. 23 after a trip to Halifax to meet his counterpart in the Nova Scotia government. On the highway, driving home to his rural Ontario riding of Halton-Halton, he got the news: a probable case of mad cow disease in the United States. So he returned to Pearson to catch a flight to Ottawa, where he spent much of that night in emergency meetings with department officials. (After last year's Canadian beef crisis, those officials are now cow experts.)

Finally landed, Speller—out yet two weeks on the job that Prime Minister Paul Martin handed him in the new cabinet—embraced Ottawa's Dec. 23 as a first under fire that might have been just even a water-skiing day. The days that followed included a quota of high-pressure media

inter-views, intense conversations with several provincial politicians and industry leaders—and, weekly daily chats with the warring media and U.S. authorities.



The verdict, Speller is less than spellbinding. BOB SPELLER on TV, but his hard work and swift actions have won him kudos from his crucial farm constituency. Bob Speller, president of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, credits Speller's experience handling farm issues last year for the far more detailed Jean Charest's work allowing him to hit the ground running in his new portfolio. Among his smart moves in the U.S. imposed new mad cow safeguards in response to its first BSE case, Speller drew attention to how Canada had already implemented many of the same measures. It was a good start on what's become a very tough job. How, can this same federal minister get some of those dispirited farmers back up for Canadian beef? **KIM OTTO**

THE ON-LINE BATTLE OVER COPYRIGHT

The hard-hit music industry is striking back, reports MICHAEL SNIDER

THE HOLIDAYS are over. Stockings, wrapping paper and New Year's resolutions are all packed away, and we're still learning our way around our cool new gadgets—maybe it's an MP3 player or a new computer that can create music CDs and DVD movies. The jolly old elf made his last, checked it twice and delivered. But don't count your Piñata puddings just yet. The gift-giving frenzy used to generate a third of the music industry's annual sales, but it hasn't been much of a sector of late. So there's another list being compiled now, one just for naughty Canadians who share music files over the Internet. According to industry sources, people who get caught here can expect lawsuits as early as this month.

On-line piracy has ravaged the recording industry's bottom line and forever altered the

way music lovers acquire their tunes. In 2004, convincing consumers to pay is at the top of every record executive's list of New Year's resolutions. After nearly four years of failing, new strategies to combat file-sharing, a little carrot, a little stick—will be slowing the download race.

Still, the music business is hurting. Compact disc sales in the U.S. have dropped 26 per cent since 1999. The Recording Industry Association of America, which represents music labels, says its members have lost more than US\$2 billion, thanks in part to peer-to-peer (P2P) file-sharing networks. The Canadian Recording Industry Association reports a \$425-million drop in retail sales in Canada during the same period. "It's been grisly," says Brian Robertson, CRIA's president. "Two thirds of that is directly attributable to Internet piracy."

If no one says downloading music (or movies, software and computer games for that matter) has been such a hit. In June, the Pew Internet and American Life found that nearly 79 per cent of 18- to 29-year-olds downloaded or copied—and don't care if that's wrong. Part of it is a lack of sympathy for copyright companies like the big five labels—Universal Music Group, Sony Music Entertainment, EMI Group, Warner Brothers Music and BMG Entertainment—

which control about 80 per cent of the market. And consumers are fed up with buying 15 songs in order to listen to one track. But the biggest loss is that downloaders can get what they want by going on a free, all-you-can-eat media smorgasbord.

Despite the industry's best efforts, the challenges of an increasingly digital world have left companies reeling in a nightmare survival game of whack-a-mole. In 2000, the RIAA succeeded in shutting down Napster, the first big threat. Another file-sharing site surfaced, then another, each more difficult to kill than its predecessor.

IN 2004, convincing consumers to pay to play is at the top of every record executive's list of New Year's resolutions

Attempts to arrest CDs with anti-piracy technology were either delayed (one Ph.D. student at Princeton University discovered that holding the disk key after inserting a disc into a computer prevented the copy-protection software from loading), or proved too consumer-unfriendly (CDs just wouldn't play on computers).

Two recent decisions—one in Canada and one in the U.S.—have compounded the industry's problems. On Dec. 12, Canada's Copyright Board declared that while uploading, or making music files available for others to copy, is illegal in this country, downloading files for personal use is not. One week later in Washington, a federal appeals court ruled that the recording industry can't force Internet providers to identify subscribers who may be copying music files on-line.

Meanwhile, millions continue to flock to P2P networks like Kazaa Media Desktop. In the process, however, they're often using law-abiding consumers. In the same December decision, the Copyright Board imposed a surcharge on portable music players that contain an unusual hard drive, such as Apple's iPod. The levy ranges from \$2 to \$25, depending on the size of an MP3 player's memory. The money will go to a fund from which artists are compensated for losses caused by copying. (This is nothing new—blank cassettes and writable CDs have had a surcharge on them for years.) As well, the Society of Composers, Authors and Music Publishers of Canada has applied to the Supreme Court to sue Internet service providers such as Bell Sympatico and Rogers Hi-Speed in order to compensate artists. Cries that if the court agrees with the society's appeal, are consequential will be that all Internet subscribers in Canada—whether they download music or not—will share the burden because service providers will add the extra costs to subscription fees.

So anti-play Kazas have finally gotten tough. In the U.S., the RIAA sued 382 people they accuse of sharing a large number of



music files with others. That has stirred up some bad press among those sued and a 19-year-old New York City girl and a 79-year-old retiree from Ridgefield, Wash., who doesn't own even a computer. But the aggressive legal action seems to be working. Nielsen Netratings recently reported a steady decline in Kazaa users, from seven million per week in June, when companies announced their intention to sue offenders, to 2.2 million a week in November. "Based on the responses we got from consumers, especially young consumers," says Forrester Research Inc.'s Josh Bernoff, "I think the lawsuits are likely to be effective in scaring some people into stopping."

The CRIA has held off suing individual

file-sharers, preferring instead to try to reform pirates. But that's changing. "There are individuals with 5,000 copyright songs that they're making available to half the universe," says Robertson. "We have tried education to get them and it has not worked so now we'll try litigation. If this is the only way we'll get these individuals' attention, that's what we'll do."

In the meantime, anti-piracy forces are still trying to get their message out. The RIAA has committed more than US\$1 million for anti-piracy education, and the CRIA recently launched an ad campaign of its own, warning parents that their children may be inadvertently downloading viruses along with their music. "Your kid may be

downloading music," says Robertson, "so do you have any idea what else they are being exposed to?"

Along with the threat of legal reprisals or potentially higher costs of getting on-line, the recording industry is trying to lure the public back into buying albums by adding bonus material to them. "They're trying to increase the value of CDs," explains Bernoff. "And cutting the price." Nothing's too kitschy to offer. One lucky Week 183 fan could find the "Golden Ticket" in a CD case, good for him and 50 of his friends to see a private concert staged by the trio. In October, the top six spots on the weekly *Billboard* 200 album chart were held by artists offering some type of bonus on their albums.

Perhaps the most important recent change is that the big labels are embracing the concept of using the Internet as a distribution method. At least a dozen on-line music stores have launched this year, adding music tracks from 99 cents each. By all accounts, the legal alternatives are making a dent. The leading outlet, Apple's iTunes Music Store, has sold more than 28 million tracks since opening in April. The number of on-line stores is expected to double in 2004 as Sony, Microsoft and Wal-Mart get into the mix. "I think they will take off," says Bernoff, who estimates that five years from now, 33 per cent of all music sales will come from on-line retailers. But will that be the end of file-sharing? "No, absolutely not," he says. "That's like asking, 'Are we seeing the end of speeding?' Maybe not. But with the industry seeing up more speed traps, the use of file-sharing will force some music pirates off the information highway for good."



THE ASIAN REVOLUTION

Led by China, a record global economic recovery is in the making

THIS GLOBAL economic recovery promises to be one for the books. It will be the first where the U.S. will be sharing the world leadership role with China. China's sudden competitiveness across a mind-boggling array of industries has transformed the global economy. Moreover, China is demonstrating that it is comfortable in the role of leading all the emerging economies of Asia—economies that as a combined basis will be greater

than North America within the next decade.

To understand why this recovery is different from its predecessors, it is necessary to look back at how China emerged from the darkness of Communism and became the most fearfully competitive nation in the world during the latter decades of the 20th century. When the Beijing recovery was getting underway in 1983, there were reportedly just 90 private passenger automobiles in China. The Maoists had managed to kill millions of people and crush every evidence of nascent enterprise, but they had not crushed the Chinese spirit. Mao's deplorable mad way for Deng Xiaoping, when history will record as one of the four or five greatest ones of the 20th century. He got the Maoists shackled.

What happened thereafter is unprecedented in economic history. When the Chinese recovery began, China had just begun experimenting with the profit motive, and most of its exports were products designed and constructed by Western importers. They were low-end goods that displaced a few thousand textile and toy

workers in textiles. China showed its mastery for regional leadership and global stature by declining to devalue its renminbi to maintain its currency's relationship with others in the region. Had it done so, it is probable that Asia would have descended into deflationary depression. Instead, the financial fundamentals for a new Asian boom began to form.

Almost unnoticed behind the strong growth in China, Taiwan and South Korea has been the emergence of India. India hasn't been a significant force in the global economy since its citizens swapped dependence on grain imports in London for dependence on devalued rupees in Delhi. That, too, is changing, and India's economy is growing at an remarkable six per cent annual rate. A big factor in the expansion is the spread of North American white-collar

more advanced industries. That's progress.

What is unique for the Bush recovery is the rising flow of jobs from the U.S. (and, to a lesser degree, Canada) to India via the Internet. A new wave to cover the new needs of new life has appeared "off shore." For long distances, transportation is the miracle that means educated Indians can get American jobs without leaving their own country. One expert speaks of "millions of jobs" that are and will be leaving for India. First there were the call centers, where Indians with strong English learned to mimic U.S. regional accents. Now, the Internet-connected jobs include software and other engineers, personnel officers, architects, accountants and retail technicians. For the first time in history, the kind of good, reliable upscale U.S. white-collar jobs that university graduates have assumed as their birthright are disappearing in mass.

What should a free trader think of this ominous trend? I don't know. What I do know is that anyone who preaches a North American economic recovery based on employment growth needs of previous recoveries is making a big mistake. These aren't just jobs that go away during a downturn and reappear when the good times return. These aren't jobs that are outsourced within the U.S. to firms that pay people less

and don't offer health-care benefits. These are jobs that are gone forever to people with North American skills earning one-fifth of their North American incomes.

This is just another reason why investors should be interested in companies that supply the raw materials for the goods the new Asian middle class will be buying. This is a very different kind of recovery—and the greatest commodity boom of our generation has begun.

Donald Cole is chairman of Future Investment Management in Chicago and of Toronto-based Jones Investment Investments. don@doncole.com

CHINA has emerged from Communism's darkness to become the world's formidably competitive nation during the world's freest trading era since Victorian times

jobs in India in a new kind of foreign trade. Until recently, the largest-scale loans in North America from the rapid growth of the Asian economy were people in manufacturing. As factory doors closed, the response from free traders was that this was simply an acceleration of a process that has been ongoing since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution: lower-cost competitors drive out higher-cost producers. This is the "creative destruction" that lies at the heart of capitalism. Productivity improves, driving living standards higher; more people who lose jobs get new ones, frequently at

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'I'M MILITANTLY MYSELF'

Back with another season, *The Newsroom's* creator insists on having control

Washington, Los Angeles in the '70s and '80s. Ken Finkelstein ended up a list of dubious achievements, including writing and directing *Apocalypse Now* and *Witness*. But since his return to Canada, the Winnipeg native has developed a half dozen critically acclaimed TV series, all inspired by his rather misanthropic satirical outlook. Finkelstein's best-known creation, of course, is his CBC series *The Newsroom* (1996), which he followed up with *Escape from The Newsroom* (2002). Both of them deviously turn the lens on a group of fictional characters working on a nightly newscast. On Jan. 12, Finkelstein brings *The Newsroom*—and his role as its original tongue-in-cheek producer George Finkelstein—back to life. The Toronto-based TV series, 37, recently spoke with Montreal's *Newsweek* reporter John Iler.

You've never been living *The Newsroom* back and even make escape from *The Newsroom* be effectively real in the series. What changed your mind?

I never had to follow any network directions, and I like it that way. A couple of us just started kicking around some ideas but didn't commit to writing. After working out enough ideas I thought were interesting—many based on day-to-day things—I just started to write and ended up with a pile of 13 scripts.

How is this season different from the first?

There's a lot less about the news and more about the characters this time. I'm trying to figure out how people act. I don't mean how they act when they're on camera, or how they act under pressure in a hospital, but just how people act every day. It's amusing how many day-to-day things offer interesting revelations about a person's character.

Critics loved *The Newsroom*. Is there a lot of pressure to live up to the expectations? There's always a risk that there won't be a risk, you haven't pushed yourself. If you feel really confident and secure, you're in trouble.

How much of you comes through in George? First of all, the way George interacted in would never be of interest to me. But George responds in ways I could see myself responding if I had no social sense. But I do have morals, ethics and a sense of responsibility. But I'm also the kind of person who, while doing the right thing, will ask myself, "Do I have to do that?" That line lives in my head as George.

Can you work without having complete creative control on a project?

When someone is in authority tells me what to do, my first reaction is always to say absolutely not. Even if it's a great idea. It's different when I'm around people I trust extremely. I have no ego about it, but neither from above or below. When creative ideas are given full creative control, the product is always more interesting because it has a voice. When someone produces a show, there is no genuine voice. It's just an attempt to get to an audience. The problem is an audience is an abstract idea. It's simply a bunch of individuals with different preferences. The best thing to do is give them your personal point of view. If they like your work, they'll want it in their living room every week. If they don't like it, there's nothing you can do about it.

Was the lack of creative control what drove you from Hollywood?

It was. In Hollywood you get paid huge amounts of money, but you're working for them and doing whatever they say. I never argued when I worked there until near the end. In Hollywood people always use the expression "it works." Not "it's great," or "it's amazing," but "it works." I hated that. Everything I do is approved by everyone and needs to be passed through every network executive's hands before being approved. Nothing can be mature. There's no risk taking. It was after a fight in a very meeting that I knew I couldn't do it any more. I had to get out of there.

You've been described as both a tyrant and a control freak on set. Are those accusations fair?

A tyrant? No. I've never yelled on set. I never get angry. But I need control. Of course. You have to have control. Budgets are so low, and there's so much to shoot with very little prep time, you have to get it done right, then and there.

Are more things off limits now than when you first started in this business?

I'm not sure if that's the case. But think about a movie like *Animal House* (1978), which, by the way, was surprisingly great. They did stuff in that, including some of the scenes of drinking and driving, that you'd never see on the screen these days. On U.S. TV especially anything considered bad is clearly avoided. When a character is racist or does something else wrong, there are ramifications. In that sense, *The Newsroom* subtly stands outside what's allowed.

How would you describe your working method?

I write and shoot stuff in different moods. Sometimes I come to a scene in a script and wonder who the f--- wrote that? What does that mean? But I never let anyone know I'm thinking that. I just go right ahead. Stuff comes from different impulses and states of mind. It's not one perfect thing that works. I'm not on the same league as people like Woody Allen or Robert Altman, but I think I have the same relationship to the work they do. Especially Altman. I'm militantly myself. And whether that self is funny, interesting or even just a no. If people are going to interest or connect about it, there's over.

Do you watch a lot of TV news?

I used to watch the news but I don't anymore. That's one of the reasons there's not as much news about the news this season. I discovered my stress level went down when I wasn't paying any attention to what was going on. When I watched CNN, I was



bothered without many things. I found that if you turn it off, all of a sudden it disappears.

How about other satirical sitcoms?

I don't think I've watched a sitcom from beginning to end for 25 years. *A Show Like Seinfeld* is funny, but I lost interest in it when the audience automatically laughed every time the door opened and Kramer did it. It was too predictable. I really did

like George's parents, though.

I find it difficult to watch TV. I have a really short attention span. One shrink was one two years ago and after one session diagnosed me with attention-deficit disorder. I can't sit still at all.

If you're not watching any TV, that must leave you with a lot of time for reading? I don't read much often, especially during

production, and always feel guilty about it. I don't get through *The New Yorker*, *Playboy* and the *New York Times Book Review*. I recently went through a period of reading poetry and was shocked by how brilliant some of it was.

What makes you laugh?

I laugh at myself all the time. I laugh at how absolutely ridiculous and stupid I can be. ☐

HOW GRADES FAIL OUR KIDS

Many experts, writes SUE FERGUSON, argue marks kill motivation

I REMEMBER TWO THINGS about my first report card: It was pink (which I loved), and made, beside me, of course, my teacher had written an F (which I loathed). My first-

year-old brain promptly concocted a solution. I took a pen and scratched a wavy line along the bottom of the offending letter, instantly transforming my record of failure into something, thank you, excellent.

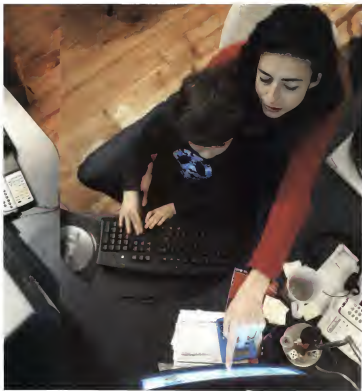
The subject, ignoring such shenanigans, got along with French, and F was indeed an accurate reflection of my (lack of) knowledge and skill. (I was—and remained until I left in the spring of 1966—the only unilingual anglophone at Montreal's École Marie

Joséphine Fortin.) But they loved F's, as the As, Bs and Cs more consistently doled out by today's elementary teachers, that's what grades are meant to convey. And when par-

ents open their children's report cards, that's what they're looking for. They may scan the teachers' comments first, but, ultimately, it's to the grades they turn for the lowdown on their kids. Does my daughter know what she's supposed to know?

Can my son do what he's supposed to do? Michelle Gosselin didn't find such quick answers to those questions in the fall. Her three children—in Grades 2, 4 and 6 at Courtenay Park School in Saint-Basile, Que., on

her son Jean's grades, says Vénus, don't reflect his intelligence or ability or potential.



Montreal's South Shore—are part of a pilot program initiated by the Riverview School Board. The program sees grades as an alternative approach to student assessment, one that dispenses with grades. Instead, it focuses on the developmental stages in learning, measuring student progress in terms of how well kids apply what they've learned. It also involves teaching kids how to judge their own work, and viewing work as formative as a way of gauging student performance.

These methods have generated mixed reviews from parents, none of whose complaints it doesn't clearly tell them how their children measure up to their classmates. Kravine Dagle, whose daughter is in Grade 1 at nearby St. Lambert Elementary School,

GRADES it seems, can be highly deceptive, but they also have amazing cachet—especially in today's achievement-oriented education system.

she, in the past few decades, teachers have become increasingly beholden to a history of provincial and national standards and tests that are all about ranking—and ranking—the performance of kids, schools and provinces. And parents have been clamoring for clear, concise information about where their kids stand. “What has led to extending grades as the system of evaluation on report cards, starting in Grade 4 in British Columbia and Grade 1 in Ontario and Nova Scotia. [Elsewhere, the format varies according to the priorities of the school district or individual schools.] For many teachers, grades are the

Current Ontario policy, says Powell, prefers teachers end up assessing rather than helping kids



A BRIEF HISTORY OF STUDENT GRADES IN CANADA

1870s to 1960s Compulsory education for young children. Generally up to age 12. Introduced in every province but Quebec, where schooling wasn't mandated until 1940.	1910s The first report cards go home. Most teachers assign percentage grades with the idea of reflecting the proportion of the curriculum the student has learned.	1920s Compulsory education in English Canada extended to include older children. Generally up to age 16.	1920s Finding it difficult to assign simple percentage points, teachers began to round grades up or down to the nearest multiple of five.	1930s and 1940s Many schools shift to using letter grades (A's, B's and C's) instead of percentages.	1950s Teachers experiment with a variety of grading schemes, which include a simple pass or fail and descriptive comments without grades.	1968 Ontario's Hall-Greene report advocates getting rid of testing and grades altogether.	1970s and 1980s Research suggests student retention, aka. failing, negatively affects students' achievement and self-esteem. Social promotion policies become poorly performing students to the next grade level so they can stay with their peers become increasingly common.	1980s and 1990s Report card formats vary according to the priorities of different school districts.	1990s Ontario introduces the first provincially standardized report card. Computerized enables teachers to use “canned” comments (a set database of phrases to describe student performance).	2000s Letter grades are the most common means of rating elementary students across Canada (in all provinces but Ontario, B.C., Nova Scotia, the format remains in the hands of local school authorities).
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lessor of all evils. But Stephen Powell, who teaches Grade 3 at Brookville Public School in Canbyville, Ont., 34 km west of Toronto, disagrees there. Ottawa's curriculum policy, he believes, shifts the focus from the child to the curriculum expectations. Because the curriculum is so "dense," kids who need more time to grasp concepts often don't get it. "Instead of helping them meet the expectations, you end up assessing them." And giving out Cs and Ds, he adds, "is as precisely difficult in subjects that are developmentally related, like reading."

Raising standards and ranking student performance against them are intended to encourage excellence. If you raise the bar, the thinking goes, children and teachers will rise to the challenge. But one deeper issue that tends to get overlooked is what sort of knowledge schools should promote. Critics claim an emphasis on testing and ranking sours students from genuine, or "deep" learning, in which the aim is for kids to absorb information into their long-term memory where it can be accessed and used creatively. As well, a wide body of research indicates that grades and other externally imposed rewards or penalties can dampen children's enthusiasm for learning—whether they're Ds or As students.

That's particularly poignant when you

consider that the Learning Partnership, a non-partisan education research and policy group, reported last May that some provinces whose students do well on standardized tests also place more therapy on another bar: that of secondary school drop-out rates. President and CEO Veronica Lacey points out that a significant number of Alberta's first Nations students, for instance, don't finish high school. Because the province has focused

on academic performance and upping standardized test scores, she says, its schools "have not paid as much attention to marginalized students"—something, she adds, they're currently working to redress. So, if education is a catch-all pot William Yeats famously said, not about "filling a bucket, but lighting a fire," perhaps it's time for schools to re-evaluate evaluation.

QUEBEC IS ONE of those provinces with the dubious distinction of appearing in the top third of both lists. And it was with the 30-per-cent dropout rate for boys (20-per-cent for girls) in a trail that the province began

radically revising its curriculum in 1997. The reform emphasizes cross-curricular skills, project-based learning, and replacing traditional grade levels with two-year "cycles" that are supposedly more attuned to the learning stages children pass through.

The pilot project at the Riverview School Board—where dropout rates are considerably lower than, and standardized test scores hover around, the provincial average—is about extending these concepts into the realm of evaluation. Launched four years ago at the elementary level after consultation with parents and educators, it involves extensive use of "process portfolios"—student collections of work showcasing their learning, self-evaluation and reflections on how to improve. (Many Canadian schools use portfolios, but with much less emphasis on self-assessment.) Another critical element of the system is the "student learning profile," a teacher-written report that documents a child's progress through the learning stages.

It's all based on the idea that learning how

CRITICS claim an emphasis on testing and ranking students detracts from 'deep' learning, whereby kids absorb information into their long-term memory

CELEBS REMEMBER THEIR CLASSROOM VERDICTS

PRIME MINISTER PAUL MARTIN

I actually failed out. I had a reasonably good grade as throughout school. I was a long way from being a top student. I had a dedicated study—there were far more important things in life. And

nobody thought I had it was a big trouble because of my personality, which is why I always thought I was well-suited to be a sitcom star. I have the same nightmare every spring at exam time. I walk in, I see a cane to class all night, and I haven't got a clue to my answer.

SINGER-SHOWNITER SARAH HARRER
I remember me by the subject we were in: that teacher told us we were in class, "Gee, how many was the word I said, and I had to say my own what that word is. In high school I did an A on the amount of skipped or counting classes, and probably didn't want to show that to my mom. I was very busy every

other than music and phys. ed. until Grade 13. Then I really wanted to move to Kingston for university, so I really wanted hard.

A friend who got a job went to my teacher and he said I was getting her 10s (lower end). I think for my parents it looks like an evaluation or reflection of themselves.

COMEDIAN SANDRINE SHAMUS

I remember report cards as being the death knell of whatever I was doing. I might have had, but in some ways I liked getting report cards. It was an opportunity to hear what the teacher really thought of you personally. It was like being reviewed. But at the end of the day they didn't make a whole lot of difference. In my house,

as long as you were progressing through the grades, your report cards were never on board. It was a report from the world. And your progress at home was not necessarily predicted by your progress in the world.

AUTHOR MICHAEL ORSABATE

When I was at school in England, my end-of-year report cards were so bad I actually burned a couple—stained my pants and had to wash them, and then burned those. The most consistent word in my reports was "mediocre,"

and there was always the phrase "should try harder" somewhere in there. I did well academically in my educational career.

AUTHOR DOUGLAS COPLAND

I liked school when I was growing up, and report cards were never a bad thing for me. I've looked at some of the report cards that kids have made today—they're like 64 pages, perfectly bound on 300 bond-weight paper with photos of the teachers and kids. Good god, it must be so boring to write 30 or 40 report cards and find something to say about every single kid. I can't believe these teachers aren't all dead.



to read and write is no different from learning how to walk, a developmental process in which every child advances at his or her own pace. Bender, who helped implement the system, points out that, as my given Grade 1 class, kids' ages differ by as much as 12 months. "When you're five years old," she says, "a year is 20 per cent of your life. You learn a lot in 20 per cent of your life." And it's equally productive to fail fast because it saves more time to meet learning goals. "You wouldn't give a child a D-minus because they weren't working at a year," she says.

To be clear, Quebec's curriculum doesn't elude more traditional expectations about what students should know. Instead of assessing whether they've met those expectations, however, the student learning profile identifies the stages children must pass through in order to become strong readers, writers, mathematicians and so on, and then plots where they fall on that continuum. The emphasis is on what students can do, not on what they can't. And grades—or any other sort of performance ranking—are removed to be found.

That approach enjoys a lot of support—it's not always among parents, at least among



those who study the science of evolution. Contrary to popular belief, claims University of Montreal psychologist Roch Chouinard, a "loss of motivation culture" is not primarily the result of punishing practices or phenomena outside the school. The main causes within the school? He notes that kids who regularly get low grades eventually stop asking help—because they view it as an admission of their own powerlessness. For Université de Sherbrooke education professor Jacques Tardif, "Starting with

"Rather than [the] going to test you on it, so you better learn it," says Rodgers, her first- and second-graders want to learn for their own sake.

100 per cent and subtracting for each error is a strange thing to do." Rather than encouraging trial and error, it punishes a child for asking an answer they're unsure of.

On the other hand, if a teacher emphasizes what the child does well—writing "clear" or "neatly"—necessarily evidence of failure but of successfully sounding out a word—the child knows she's on the right track. And that, says Tardif, who has been watching the Riverside initiative with interest, gives her a reason to leave the classroom. Because

simply the chronically struggling child whose motivation is at risk. One of the "most thoroughly researched findings in social psychology," Boston psychologist and award-winning author Albert Bandura has said, "is that the more you reward someone for doing something, the less interest that person will tend to have" in the task at hand. At least 70 studies show that "extrinsic motives"—including going out. As for school work—are "not nearly as effective over the long haul but counterproductive" to cultivating a desire to learn.

The love of learning is exactly what was on Lisa Voepi's mind when her son, Liam, brought home his Grade 1 report card in November 2002. Shocked to see a C in every subject, she and her husband decided not to coach him from the grades. For Liam—whom Voepi describes as high-energy and bright—to be told "right out of the block that he's mediocre," she says, "turn him up for a self-filling prophecy." Neither did Voepi give the grades much credence. Like many young boys, Liam's reading skills are developing relatively slowly, says the part-owner of a Toronto media transcription company. But the low grades don't reflect his "intelligence or ability or potential." Rather, Voepi is convinced, they speak to his difficulty following instructions. In other words, she adds, the Cs indicate "my son isn't an approval junkie." To help Liam adjust to the classroom, she and her husband pointed out that "it's a game, and his job is to show the teacher he knows the material." His Grade 2 report card was much improved—some Cs, a few Bs and one A.

Rewriting grades is a pretty radical step—especially for today's parents, most of whom were raised with marks and a zero-on-zero atmosphere. But to really be deep learners, argues Tardif, kids need to take responsibility for their own learning and evaluation. That may seem like handing the whysome keys to the potential learners, but the teachers at the Riverside board say it works. "Rather than, 'I'm going to test you on it, so you better learn,'" says Courtyard Park teacher Carole Rodger, her first- and second-graders want to learn for their own

take. Because the emphasis is on finding ways to improve, adds Isabelle Lessard, who was a Grade 1 teacher until becoming vice principal this year at St. Mary's Elementary School in Longueil, Que., "they all have to get somewhere, and when they get there, they have to go higher." Doug MacCaul, a father of two kids at Beachville Elementary School, sees other long-term benefits of this approach. By organizing their portfolios

IF EDUCATION is, as Irish poet William Yeats famously said, not about 'filling a bucket, but lighting a fire,' perhaps it's time for schools to re-evaluate evaluation



and engaging in self-reflection, he says, kids get invaluable training for the future. "How many people know how to present themselves when they go for a job, for example?"

Still, are all educators on board. In the staff room at another Riverside school, Harold Napper (in Brossard, Que., teachers say they like the portfolios but worry that by accentuating a student's progress, teachers aren't preparing kids for the possibility down the road that, judged by other criteria, they might fail. "Until Durand Hamilton-Brown's school that occurred, 'in kids you're measured by everyone else,'" says the mother of a Riverside pilot school student. "You get a promotion if you're the best in your department—that's just the way it is."

THE PERCEPTION that schools should perpetually toughen up in a competitive, error-driven world helps explain the upsurge of more rigorous standards in the first place, says Alan Sears, a University of Windsor sociologist. Within and beyond the classroom, there's evidence of a "hardening of expectations," says Sears, whose 2003 book, *Rethinking the Model Factory*, offers a sweeping critique of the changes in Ontario's education system in the past 30 years. That's especially apparent in report cards. An A no longer denotes mere excellence, but was an indication that a student "meets" grade-level expectations. (Be go to those who "meet," and Cs to students who "approach" them.) The spirit of such definitions (frustrating? A downward spiraling of grades, raising one Toronto-area principal to put up a notice reading, "As we out and in are in." Teacher Powell contends the new definitions "give us less flexibility" in grading kids who aren't our students. That's because a C—which used to indicate a student wasn't really at risk—now sends the more negative message that the kid needs us "pull up her socks."

Now Sears' parents have signaled they won't stand firm under redefinition of grades. After a new report card was piloted in eight schools last year, says Hantsport School principal Marion Ross, parents were "extremely disappointed" with high letter-grade standards. With the revised version, a student doesn't have to be consistently working beyond grade level to get an A. In B.C., where new report cards will be sent home this fall, the definition isn't finalized.

But the trend is clear: grades are again the norm for more and more Canadian children—despite warnings from social critics, teachers and parents about how they can affect motivation. Provincial officials responsible for the new report cards say they're simply responding to popular demand. But parental pressure to be cyclical one decade more and find an encouraging for grades and a back-to-the-basics curriculum, the next they're wanted about their half spent and creativity. Perhaps Quebec's Riverside board has found a happy medium. **ET**

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HERD MENTALITY

A couple follows the migration to measure caribou's sensitivity to development

HUSBAND-AND-WIFE adventure Katson Huser and Lesaine Allison set off from the remote village of Oum-Crow, Yukon, last April on a bold mission. Over the next five months, the couple followed the annual migration of the 123,000-strong Porcupine caribou herd from its winter range in central Yukon to its spring calving grounds on Alaska's coastal plain and back again. The journey covered more than 1,500 km, as the cows fled across three mountain ranges and 15 major rivers, and through conditions ranging from blinding ground blizzards to the bug-infested heat of an Arctic summer. Through it all, Huser, 35, and Allison, 34, exercised larla control over the expedition's pace or push. "So much depended on the caribou," says Huser. "The migration route and timing varies from year to year, so we had to be completely flexible. We were literally being pulled across this wild landscape by these animals."

For Huser, a wildlife biologist and part-time national park warden, and Allison, a freelance filmmaker, this was more than just a chance to explore their shared passion for outdoor pursuits and the Far North. The trip was designed to raise awareness of, and opposition to, the latest push to start drilling for oil and gas in a portion of Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, which includes the caribou's calving grounds. As his father did in the late 1980s, President George W. Bush is preparing to allow drilling along the oil-rich coastal plain in part of an energy-embellish bill, now before the U.S. Congress. Proponents of development, including the Alaska governor and speakers for that state's 15,000 Inupiat and Gwich'in people, argue that oil

exploration and caribou can coexist. They point to the experience of Alaska's Central Arctic caribou herd, which has grown from 5,000 animals to almost 30,000 since the Prudhoe Bay oil fields, west of the wildlife refuge, came on stream in the late 1960s.

On the other side are most U.S. Democrats, the Canadian government, several major environmental groups and the 7,000 Gwich'in First Nation of Alaska, Yukon and the Northwest Territories. Exposing the Porcupine calving grounds to oil and gas drilling, they maintain, would devastate the herd and cause hardship to the Aboriginal peoples who depend on it.

Huser and Allison are finally in the second camp. They point out that the Central Arctic herd has, in fact, been depleted by resource development, but the animals have

"And as our experience shows, there are some very good reasons why they have been coming to the same spot for so long."

Within days of joining the migration, the couple found themselves surrounded by thousands of caribou sneezing northward. Huser and Allison, travelling for the first time solo by sled and dog team by foot, plodded along, bearing heavy backpacks. They clocked, at best, 25 km per day, and often much less. "It was sort of a tortoise-and-hare scenario," quips Huser, "and we were definitely the turtles."

Conditions in the early going ran the full gamut of an Arctic spring, from -30°C overnight to above freezing during the day, with fog, high winds and snow in between. "At one point, we were trapped in this storm," recalls Allison. "We huddled in our tent and

it was blowing so hard, it felt like the snow crystals were coming right through the Goretex. Katson went out to try to build a snow wall to protect us and, as he did, about 50 caribou wandered by." While the humans cowered from the elements, it was just another day for the animals.

At the end of May, six weeks of almost constant motion came to an abrupt halt as they arrived at the calving grounds. Bullfrogs say you can set your clock by the Porcupine caribou. Between June 1 and June 10 they give birth, no matter where they are. But their preferred spot, and the one that ensures the lowest rates of infant mortality, is the deep-flooded boggy area of the Arctic Ocean. Audubon quietly observed the animals for the next 30 days. Huser and Allison quickly appreciated their logic. For one, the energy-depleted females were able to lose on the

anah-wet grasses, lichens and yellow shrubs, a protein-rich diet that ensured good milk for the calves' crucial first month. For another, while mosquitoes and biting flies had swarmed inland, here, due to the cool winds wafting off the ocean, the caribou weren't bothered by insects. Finally, the bears, eagles and wolves that Huser and Allison had encountered almost daily during the previous weeks seemed to have vanished, affording the caribou a special free paradise in which to give birth.

Huser and Allison hunkered down in their tent during calving, speaking to each other in a whisper. If they went outside, the sled caribou ran away. "This shows you how sensitive they are to this time," says Allison. "If there were oil and gas drilling, pipelines and airports, they would be forced to take their calves back into the foothills, where they'd have to deal with the bugs, the predators and the lack of forage."

As abruptly as it began, the calving period ended. The caribou banded together in groups as large as 7,000 animals and roared for higher ground in a sometimes futile attempt to escape the mounting insect horde. Huser and Allison struggled to keep up,

often sleeping only two or three hours at a stretch and walking through the hell, sufficed rights. "We had to put aside all of our natural rhythms to match the animals," says Allison. "Those were some really magical times. The caribou didn't seem to mind us being along at all."

By August, the herd finally started to fly.

THE birthing area favoured for 27,000 years is a narrow strip of land between the Brooks range and the Beaufort Sea

on up and their coats thickened. Ironically, it was just at this point that Huser and Allison's bodies gave out. Hundreds of meals of dried foods, perpetual movement and the extremes of Arctic weather had taken their toll. Each of them had lost about 25 pounds. "We are gripped all night by bugs," Huser wrote in his journal, "and I wake in the morning, grasping at arms, legs and torso that, after having grown muscular, are now too thin to be my own."

Originally, the couple intended to stay with the caribou for the full seven-month migration, back to the herd's winter range in central Yukon. But in early September, they cut their trek short by two months, mainly because they had the opportunity to fly to Washington to be part of its international lobbying campaign. They found the exercise frustrating, as they tried to derail the emotions of an intense five months on the trail into a five-minute push to congressional aides or, occasionally, a real live politician.

For now, the lobbying has been successful. Congress recently voted to exempt the Bush proposal to allow Arctic drilling from the omnibus energy bill. Still, opponents long ago learned they must mean vigilance. Allison and Huser intend to do their part, as is currently doing 48 hours of footage of their expedition into a one-hour documentary for the National Film Board, while he is waiting on a book to be published next year by McMillan & Stewart. "The Porcupine caribou have tested every square inch of their vast range and the place evolution has chosen for their calves remains a target for oil and gas development," says Huser. "We can't let that happen."



The Porcupine herd's round trip to Alaska's central calving grounds covers 1,500 km





IN PRAISE OF THE MULLET

The NHL's selling bygone jerseys. They oughtta bring back heritage hair.

MODERN HOCKEY is in a sorry state. It's evident in the glacial tardiness of many teams' uniforms, which could double as leisure wear for these Polynesians. It's evident in the choice-rock and/or clips played at arena—there's nothing like playing \$300 for a seat and getting to see 10,000 folks singing along to Trivium's *Hold On* when the home team trails 1-4 after four minutes of play in the first period. It's evident in the poorest franchises, many of which are placed in cities where no little boy, no matter how poor, would ever dream of playing hockey when he grows up.

The game's overlords have finally woken up to the effects of their corporate collusionism

and are banking on hockey heritage and nostalgia to fix things up. That's why the NHL, endorsed the most covered outdoor rink, the first in 86 years, played in No. 10 sweater from the Montreal Canadiens and the Oilers at Commonwealth Stadium in Edmonton. So called "heritage" reproductions swarmed from laughable, defunct teams like the Cleveland Barons and Oakland Seals are doing brisk business. Even the World Hockey Association, that poor veldt, has risen from the dead. All this is splendid, for, after all, hockey culture is bigger than the game itself.

But alas, it could be all for naught unless we pay serious attention to the ever-diminishing number of *bad* hairstyles in professional hockey. Goals come and go. Uniforms too. Rats become innards. But no one forgets what Darryl Sittler looked like in the '70s. Hockey hair is the paragon of the youth culture and the epitome of a player's style, a reflection of ambition, confidence and self-concern. And with recent developments in the history of the sport, it came about with the mainstream acceptance of men's hair styling: in the 1940s, coinciding with the expansion of the NHL, they made and the sexual revolution flared into hockey. Tim Horan's brush cut morphed into a style similar to that of Menlo Park's greatest Mike Manich. The Habs' Jacques Laperriere soon followed suit. Even sport older Guy W. Wilson adopted his adobe hair length to match his younger counterpart, Ranger goalie Ed Giacomin. The coming of Bray's seven was even down in a blood-red cap, and the dad even spilled one police. Photos of Pierre Elliot Trudeau as a newlywed

in 1971 confirm that at no other time in our history did hockey players' hairstyles so closely resemble that of a strong Prime Minister—or his wife's.

Mandatory helmet regulations gave us the mullet, short on top and long in the back, a look championed by James Furr, who in his Pittsburgh Penguins days could have



BEFORE Wayne Gretzky, it would have taken a gun to the head to convince a fella to consider a man-perm

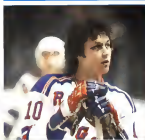
been reminiscent of Greek master of new-age music, Yanni. The mullet made hockey hair ever-lusher, but it wasn't eternal. Hockey hairstyles remained varied, heavily personal hallmarks of each player.

But they weren't style-driven. Unlike the exhibitionist mind-sets in other sports—

like soccer's David Beckham and Jason Lee, with their oh-so-hip "fauxhawk" and "pompadour" styles—hockey hair was rarely imitated because no one intentionally got their hair cut like a hockey player. Not many people would sit down in a barber chair and say, "Just cut it like Pat Rousseau's, Steve," unless they happened to be another hockey player. By the same token, no men's hair stylist could ever make the claim, "I put my daughter through dental hygiene school with all those 'Ron Duguay' cuts. And with the money left over, I bought a hunting dog."

But even after all the scorn, there is something downright Samsonian about the power that hockey hair wields. The more original hairstyles that popped up in a franchise, the better the state of the entire sport—regardless of who won the Stanley Cup. With the best came wealth, power and love. For instance, when Wayne Gretzky signed with Edmonton for a record amount, he owned the next hockey hair (did I tell you Gretzky, it would have taken a gun to the head to convince a fella to consider a man-perm). After Gretzky, even the barbershops were sporting them. And their salaries took off, as did their stature and importance. The hair gave the players wealth and power, and was their affection and emblem.

Even if we couldn't match the players' athletic prowess or hope to earn the cash needed to live like they did, their hairstyles meant we could still tell them like family. It was the hair that brought our hockey heroes down from Olympus. They were not gods—as god would have hair like that. We talked about players like Dale Hawerchuk as if he was an acquaintance who lived down the street, a guy who tried to get to second base with your sister or drove won'ton through a neighbor's vegetable patch in a pickup, like right out of thoughtless destruction. These were old friends with economic profiles who also happened to be big celebrities! Well, big Canadian celebrities. But unlike Luba Goy, we really wanted to let these Canadian



In the hockey hair of fame are (clockwise from top left) old-timers Ron Duguay and Darryl Sittler, and recent stars Mike Ricci and Jere Lehtinen

celebrities into our lives, even if they stole our team's chance for a pose session spot. But when the league began to be run from out of New York, it was only a matter of time before the fan would cut. With the money, fame and full U.S. pro-wrestle lifestyle came personal stylist. Competent professional image consultants turned players into Ron Attiechi and Adrian Brody when they'd be better left as Bernie Federov and Harold Saperstein. Or Fred Thompson. Or Doug Reinhardt. Igor Larin rose about the use of heritage as a way to bring back the game the way we loved it, come draft time there had better be some gritty

low. However, they can't quite pay tribute just by thinking about their outfits. Bryce McCabe and Mike Ricci, on the other hand, can. Say these names, think of their hair, and try not to grin. Jim Bennett, Ron Michay, Grant Fuhr, Dennis Vavra, and back in the late 1970s, the Vancouver Canucks started wearing uniforms that looked like Fallawren resources, and guys like Ron Sillbauer had hair to match.

If professional hockey is really serious about the use of heritage as a way to bring back the game the way we loved it, come draft time there had better be some gritty

and hair requirements. It's probably too late to change existing players, but drafters ought to be encouraged to recruit those James Tate, Geno Vardi or Willie Jon King. Forget about forking over lockouts. Failure to maintain the locks we love into hockey is what will force much of the game to look elsewhere for entertainment. If that means striding slitherer-wrestling matches in concert by European male models, so be it. The thought gives me the vapors, but I'd do it if I have to. It's that important.

Roberto Viel is a producer for the "Tribute to Roberto" and the son of hockey's Freddy Viel.

TEN ARTISTS WHO ROCK

It's worth keeping an eye on the imaginative flights of these Canadians



What does it take to make it in the big leagues of contemporary art? More than talent. Curators at Canada's top public galleries—always on the watch for the next Jeff Wall or Janet Cardiff—look for superb technique, originality, depth, relevance, a certain element of fear (the ability to go the distance with out rejecting oneself), tough criteria—but the curators were nonetheless able to name at least three dozen exceptional young artists who make the grade. Modestly in the spotlight 10 of them.

KARYN AZZULAY, TORONTO

THE ART Eclectic, unabashedly feminist wall paintings/installations brimming with abstracted organic forms that mimic tropical flowers, garlands, shrubs and gaudy mass Anouk fashion poster fantasies lure us of delicate fabrics, ribbons, pomegranates, coffee filters, egg cartons and other cheap domestic materials. One of a generation of emerging artists who reject modernism, Azzulay possesses a sensibility that is ornate, Victorian and deliberately sentimental. Azzulay uses her work as a tool of protest. "It always seems important to people that my work is feminine," she says, "but it's just a byproduct of my femininity."

THE RISE Only three years out of an school, Azzulay, 36, has won two high profile commissions. The Canadian Art Foundation awarded her to create a major installation for its annual gala last September. Then, in November, one of her works appeared in an exhibit, curated by the editor of *Canadian Art*, for the Toronto International Art Fair.



MASSIMO GIAMBERINI, MONTREAL

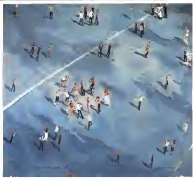
THE ART Multimedia. Food is the core subject of Giamberini's playful, poetic and highly original art. Some of his fresh takes include: performance works in which he invites the public to join him in a picnic on an art gallery floor or a meal on a subway platform; drawings that become placemats; and sculptures made out of leftovers and food waste such as olive pits. The artist serves up his unorthodox works as visual metaphors—issues are as deep as the texture of trust and intimacy and as concrete as our appetite for convenience and worried about the control of the food supply. Giamberini is the busiest figure in the photo on the left, Paris.

THE RISE Many curators consider Giamberini, 36, one of the most interesting artists in Canada. After an impressive showing at the Montreal Biennale in 2000, Giamberini won the prestigious Dada-Ladue prize the following year.

SHAWN SHEN, TORONTO

THE ART Oil painting. Shen's quietly canny canvases combine a traditional style with edgy, contemporary imagery. The 28-year-old artist, often inspired by newspaper photos, depicts familiar scenes—busy urban intersections, rock concerts and other crowd scenes, people unfolding a car—but his paintings have a dreamlike quality, a sense of impending disaster. In the past year, as he's worked nearly on larger canvases, first anxiety has crept through in the unsettling angles of his composition and dissonant, hazy, hazy backgrounds. His typically aerial perspective heightens the feeling of alienation in works such as *The Cool Kids* or *Dear Deities of People and Systems* (right). Heavy brushwork and semi-abstract figures add to the uneasy, unsteady feel, brooding but beautiful work.

THE RISE In the past year, the Ontario career has enjoyed artist residencies in Basel, Als, Switzerland and upstate New York. And commercial galleries in Toronto and Zurich have decided to show the promising young painter, just three years out of an school.



LAILA LANI, WILLOW

THE ART Knockout steel sculptures with a tiny touch. Lani, 35, a certified welder and graduate of the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, welds an industrial blowtorch in the wire-crochet look, heavy-duty, intricate designs into heavy metal. The artist's signature, *Sold Doves* (left) and monumental, "crocheted" *I-beams* elegantly perform traditionally masculine roles of art and architecture with feminine craft.

THE RISE In 2000, Lani won an Outstanding Student Achievement in Contemporary Sculpture Award from the International Sculpture Center in Hamilton, N.J. And in 2002, the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia appointed her artist in residence, naming Lani to create a new work for the opening of its new sculpture gallery in the spring of 2004.



PAUL BUTLER: WINTER

THE ART Butler's compelling collage demonstrates his ingenious use of "direct tape." In fact, the 30-year-old artist "draws" with an assortment of tapes—Scotch, masking, hockey, surgical and electrical. He applies the humble adhesives, along with found text, to images borrowed from popular magazines, transferring them into surprisingly sophisticated artworks (such as *Winter* [landscape, above]). A stretch of hand-torn cloth might define a horizon in a landscape; tiny cut-up pieces might darken a figure. The results are elegant pieces that make very comments on contemporary values.

THE BIZ The personality artist's collage parties are achieving near-legendary status. First organized by her and his artist friends (collaborator on *end...ish...*), Butler has since held solo parties in Winnipeg, Toronto, Montreal, Los Angeles, London and Oslo, Norway. Future stops include Berlin and L.A. Both artist and dealer, brother-in-law represented by an established Toronto gallery—showcases the work of other young Canadian artists on his new gallery



Their work displays technique, originality, depth, relevance, surprise

WILL RYAN: TORONTO

THE ART Performance art or "social sculpture" is how Hong Kong-born Ryan likes to describe his funny and imaginative public "interventions." A University of Toronto graduate who also describes himself as a writer, Ryan has presented his performance work in public spaces throughout Toronto. For one of his more popular pieces, a lip-synch court in the middle of a busy downtown intersection, they stood back and videotaped pedestrians' reactions.

THE BIZ Only 23, and currently pursuing an M.F.A. at Columbia University in New York, Ryan was asked to participate in the 59th Venice Biennale last June. He was the only Canadian invited to create a work in a four-week artist-in-residence program at the event. He also participated in the *Protagonists* Biennale.



SCOTT MCFARLAND: MANDUCKEN

THE ART Photography—extraordinary, large-scale images of quiet moments and uncomfortable environments. McFarland works with in the medium of documentary photography but with a radically modern aesthetic. The most deliberately visible subjects are, for the most part, void colors, choosing material to create photographic images that focus on the ordinary a dilapidated bathroom, a maintenance worker in a garden, a cottage stove (as in *Endure*, last

showing, right). The art and beauty of the images lie in McFarland's vision and his impetuous ability to evoke intense mood in the mundane through a brilliant manipulation of light and shadow and meticulous attention to detail.

THE BIZ Jeff Wall, one of Canada's most internationally renowned artists, has publicly praised his former student. The National Gallery of Canada offered its endorsement of the 28-year-old by purchasing two of his works

Over 100 You | BY STUART HOGGER

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HOGGER

...and do you do love?" I said.

"Oh, yes, yes."

"Do you like meditation?"

"Yes, yes, yes, yes, yes."

"And, what's the schedule?" What is the

time?

"Just drop in and meditate. There's no

charge."

I was given a note and was the weekend

work. The same weekend and the work

in my previous work was going. How

could drop in on schedule, no breaks,

no tea and no food, no water—just a bowl

of peace and silence? I felt the pain in my

throat, I was meditating that night

for work meditating.

On the 11th of May, meditation music

added to the music, brought in the Green

steps of Quebec, was the beginning of

the work of the day. The program promised

to teach participants how "new things are

being made."

"Again, for me, I'm prepared."

When I arrived, I was asked to do a

workshop. I was asked to do a workshop

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JASON MCLAIN: VANCOUVER

THE ART A quirky mix of boyish, cartoon inspired drawings, sculpture, collage, one of a kind books, costumes, sound installations and performance works. Dubbed "Dada's Boy" by one enthusiastic critic, McLain, a native of London, Ont., takes his cue from the Dadaists, Surrealists and Vito Giacoparis, then goes his own way. His eccentric and irreverent oeuvre includes drawings on pages torn from coloring books, and fantastical form-fitting men, wired for sound, that plug into the frames of his paintings. A frequent collaborator, McLain, like many of his generation, is also an enthusiastic practitioner of mail art—elaborately decorated envelopes and packages exchanged with fellow artists through the postal system.

THE BEAT McLain, 32, has captured the attention of the art crowd with large-scale drawings/paintings—on view last year in a Vancouver Art Gallery group show—that combine the buoyancy of a fringe act with the sensibility of an underground comic. The works are like visual diaries—stream of consciousness illustrations that merge details of his personal life with the oddities he encounters in his rough downtown neighborhood, bias of over-the-ear street corner neon, sports allusions, movie trivia and bits of Canadian history. Represented by galleries in Vancouver and Los Angeles, he has upcoming shows in New York.



LORI CLARKE: ST. JOHN'S

THE ART Video, sound, installation and performance works. Clarke explores the concrete, metal, bone, and tissue around, art and machine, mind and body, in deep and lyrical interdisciplinary pieces. To conclude her series SOMALORE ("woven of the body"), the 36-year-old artist produced the installation *Awakened* at Seta in collaboration with a physician. It's currently on view at Memorial University's Faculty of Medicine. *Chair of Breath* (above), created with Ursula Norris, is also part of SOMALORE.

THE BEAT Clarke has won a core of place in the high-profile-innovative exhibit at the Art Gallery of Newfoundland and Labrador's new building next June—one of the province's most anticipated art events.



PETER FLEMMING: CALGARY

THE ART Kinetic sculpture. Flemming crosses ingenious mechanical mechanisms from discarded electronic equipment—watches, anemometer, *Consider Censor* (below). The automated public that denounces this popular, room-sized piece gracefully travels the length of a clear plastic shell filled with water, back and forth, in an endless loop. Like most of the artist's robotic constructions, it senses movement, then pushes viewers to reflect on the meaning, usefulness and ultimate impact of technology. "It's my way of expressing simultaneous design and fascination with our girdle culture," says the 30-year-old artist.

THE BEAT Flemming, an instructor at the Alberta College of Art and Design in Calgary, has six projects in the works for 2004 and 2005, to be shown at galleries in Calgary, Kingston, Ont., and Dawson, Yukon. The artist, who recently returned from a sabbatical in residence in Bergen, Norway, is clearly finding momentum in this developing art form.



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WORLDS OF WONDER

A lawyer chases legal rabbits, refugees strive for Canada, an angel comes calling

IMAGINE if showcase decided not to run the second season of *Six Feet Under*—or CTV and Global said they were going to use the money they usually spend on U.S. dramas like *CSI*, *The Sopranos* and *24*—the schedule with new Canadian shows. Viewers would be up in arms. Digital service and satellite dish sales would go through the roof.

But that's not likely to happen. The way things look, Canadian programs will never rule our screens. Besides the fact that buying U.S. shows is much cheaper than creating homegrown ones, in the past year the government has drastically cut funding for new programs. And it has just to place new criteria for doling out money to "ensure funds are directed to productions that meet the best chance of attracting Canadian audiences." In other words, bring on the *Cineaste*! *Mad Men*, *Arrested Development* and *Scandal* are working in the medium in this country are speaking out, but the audience is abysmal—in, at any rate, on television.

As a result, the only new one-hour Canadian dramatic series debuting on a major network channel is *CBC's This Is Wonderland* (premiering Jan. 12). It's a lawyer show co-written by Governor General's Award-winning playwright George F. Walker. The main character, Alice (Carla Piliav, from *CSI's* teen drama *One Tree Hill*), is a defense lawyer who bounces between bad court, plea court and mental health care, trying to enter a spectrum of drama through a seemingly inefficient legal system. *Wonderland* runs for a corn harvest of *Law & Order* and *NYPD Blue*. Law comes across as a darker version of the '90s sitcom *Night Court*—complete with the requisite cheap laughs involving misadventure streetwalkers.

Nevertheless, some of the cases Alice is assigned do pull you in. In the pilot, a man named Owen has been jailed for molest-



Piliav's lawyer enters a labyrinth of drama through a seemingly inefficient legal system

ing a cousin's car—items that he was just borrowing. Before that can be cleared up, Owen is mentioned in court documents for a previous being held on breathy suspect as an ex-charger, named Orlan. Since it's Alice's first day in "Wonderland," she can't get the right person to fix the spelling mistake, and Owen is penalized for the wrong crime. Cases with that much emotional impact are rare in the series. More often, hysterical family members hassle Alice in the halls, or she gets involved in mental health court, where several *one-woman* go to trial to enter a challenge for even the most skilled therapists.

The biggest problem is not, however, these one-time guests, but rather the key cast—er, lack thereof. For the first three episodes the same lawyers, aides and judges surround Alice, but we're told nothing about them. A Crown attorney routinely cracks her own, and later tells her in all seriousness and seeming good nature that she needs a ha-

ir, and he'd be willing to do it. That's interesting, but it goes nowhere. Viewers are capable of seeing 10 more than one character. There's a good chance you won't like the rather bland Alice, but you might be interested in the tell, quite a lawyer who gives her advice in the courtroom, then runs into her using a hot dog outside. But does he have a name? Why does he help her? Why he's not married? After three episodes of wondering, you just might stop caring.

CBC does get it right in *Marion Crago*, a dramatic miniseries on air this week (Jan. 4 to 6). Set in Vancouver and Burnaby, it's a fascinating historical analysis of our emigration system, and has a roster of excellent Canadian actors, including Kate Nelligan, Nicholas Campbell, R. H. Thomson, Linda Hogg and Piliav, the actress from *Wonderland*. With nipped-from-the-hand-lime plots, the series tackles flawed immigration policies, terrorism and political agendas. It also flips to the other side of the world and Burnaby's 10-year-old war, focusing on Harry teacher Moses Benoit (Miguel Alvarado) and his sister, Denise Kuba (Natalie Macdonald).



Relevant, smart and Canadian in its focus on nonfiction, *Marion Crago* proves Canada is a dark, complex wonderland

ANGELS IN AMERICA, running on The Movie Network on Jan. 11 and 18, is a one-hour, two-part miniseries adapted from a Broadway hit—and it defies synopsis, or at least a short synopsis. Even the play's Pulitzer Prize-winning writer, Tony Kushner, has resorted to a vague, although fitting, explanation: "It's like a bunch of seasons in a cloud chamber, crossing, colliding, and changing each other." These stories include two real-life characters, *RepubliCan* power broker Roy Cohn (Al Pacino) and Ethel Rosenberg (Meryl Streep), the woman he helped send to the electric chair during the anti-Communist hysteria of the 1950s. "It's in the drama catches up with them, it's Reagan's head-on America of the mid-'80s, and Cohn is reborn with AIDS. The ghost of Reagan's head-on death. Under the direction of Mike Nichols [The Graduate], Pacino and Streep meet on screen for the first time, and they are wicked-sparring partners. Streep's

Alice is one of several uncomparable performances in a debate-laden melodrama

reserved peace forces Pacino to go for something more real than the frothing, over-the-top shock that got him through the '90s.

Also colliding are two unhappy young couples, *Marion's* Joe (Patrick Wilson) and Harper (the always exquisite Mary-Louise

ANGELS is like a bunch of atoms in a cloud chamber, crossing, colliding, and changing each other

Parker) and gay pair Prior (brilliant new comer Justin Kirk) and Louis (Ben Shenkman). As both subplots go discrete, AIDS strikes. Prior and Wilson's pining Harper meet each other in a shared hallucination. Meanwhile, in real life, Louis and Joe—once a strongly gay liberal, the other a closeted homosexual Republican, and

both self-loathing—abandon their sick significant others and start an affair.

Barging into this dysfunctional housework is Joe's mother (Streep, in one of her four roles), who comes to New York after Joe calls and says he's gay. She ends up having the greatest affect on Prior, who affectionately refers to her as "my ex-lover's lover's Mormon mother." Prior is also married by another vision, a wild-haired, strikingly absurd, vengeful and horny angel (Emma Thompson), who comes crashing through the ceiling in order to get them in extinction—and a mission.

This hodgepodge of melodrama and debate on religion, justice, politics, AIDS and American ideals is completely overwhelming. But force yourself to pull back at times during the six hours, and just enjoy the incomparable performances (with special attention to Jeffrey Wright, who reprises his Tony Award-winning role as gay news anchor, the gorgeous acts, the flawless moments and the random acts of kindness. For all the despair, sickness and political confabulations, there is joy in nearly every scene.



THE DAY I WAS WHACKED

When I got the strap, parents didn't challenge teachers. Times change.

I WAS INTRODUCED to social recently about a mother's outrage over the fact that her eight-year-old son had been shown, though not slapped with, the strap after a teacher pulled him aside for pushing another student to the ground. The incident took place at an elementary school in Weiburg, Alta., about 70 km southwest of Edmonton. "I'm extremely angry," said the boy's mother, who plans to challenge the local school board's policy, which allows for corporal punishment. "Under no circumstances will they be giving

any child a strap. It is archaic and violent."

Take many times, I suspect, I had thought the strap had gone the way of flogging and paddles as a feature of schooled life. In fact, it seems to me that many younger readers may not even know what "getting the strap" means (it was, children, a once common practice wherein teachers or principals would whack errant students several times on the hand with a short length of black leather ribbon as an attempt to change their behaviour). I've since learned that, while corporal punishment is banned from schools in British Columbia, Ontario, the four Atlantic provinces and the three territories, it remains legal elsewhere, with the final decision left up to individual school boards. In Alberta, according to the latest info, 15 boards share the position. Malware is jumping there, the Black Gold school division, which includes the village of Weiburg, and even has no policy.

The news was somewhat of some old memories of my own exposure to the strap, and got me thinking about how our nation's common classroom discipline have evolved since I attended elementary school in Edmonton in the 1960s. Locals, remember, the young, male teacher I had for both Grade 5 and 6—we'll call him Mr. P—who began each school year by solemnly slipping the strap into his desk several times as a warning of what would happen to us if we fell out of line. Mr. P was also fond of walking up behind classmates (those who, for example, spoke to each other to share) and lifting them out of their desks by their ears. Colours included, Mr. P reserved this punishment for the boys. But if the of-

fending student happened to be a boy and aged, he would also make them go to the lines of the class for extended periods of time and hold hands. Rarely now after time could be full 10 years old.

Since Mr. P was a corporal of all teachers, other designs lurked in the school gymnasium. One of his favourite activities was dodge ball, a game of tag in which players get hit as hard as possible with a large leather ball. Mr. P was not above throwing his own shots—no, believe me, they were stingers—at students who had some-

he got any classroom to stage. If a weren't for him, I might not have spent the past 25 years inflicting my words on magazine sites and newspaper readers.

So I mention all this not as a way of coarsening personal demons, but to note how profoundly times have changed. As a teacher who now has children in elementary school, I find a couple of things stand out. First, it's hard to imagine Mr. P, or his ilk, creeping up today in a mainstream school. Second, if they did, they would surely be scolded out and swiftly shown the door.

As kids, the last thing that occurred to us was to complain about someone like Mr. P to our parents. Admiring and carrying on they might have been—and more certainly fell into this category—they wouldn't have thought about challenging a teacher's actions on the spot. "The teacher is the boss," they would have said. "You've got to follow the rules." Today, the first thing a kid would do is go to his parents—and likely elicit a sympathetic response. That's what happened in the Weiburg case, where the mother took the extra step of speaking to the media. "I'm scared him, and I don't think that is an acceptable way to educate children," she told the *Edmonton Journal*. "She helped them understand the reason for their behaviour."

So we're better off then, or now? I am of two minds. When I look at all the school yard bullying and the blatant disrespect on display in many classrooms, I think the pendulum has swung too far in terms of our standards of discipline and parents' over-governing teachers. But when I recall the incidents and sometimes bizarre actions of a man who was supposed to be an early role model, I am quietly grateful the Alberta school district children are part of a one that has banned the strap.

His public confessions aside, Mr. P was a very good teacher. He was the first one to encourage me to write and was full of praise when I penned my first play (a dramatic little thing about the Pecos cartoon characters and a Christmas production), which



how disciplined him. After the strap, I received a copy of it, and have no memory of my offence. What I do recall is a group of us in the principal's office getting duly whacked. It stung, but did not wound. The trick was not to cry. If you could pull that off, "getting the strap" became a badge of honor.

His public confessions aside, Mr. P was a very good teacher. He was the first one to encourage me to write and was full of praise when I penned my first play (a dramatic little thing about the Pecos cartoon characters and a Christmas production), which

CLOSING NOTES



Art | Their bodies are his wonderland

A naked woman stands on a gladiolus in the middle of the Beaverfoot Bistro in Whistler, B.C., while artist Martin Armand brushes a mountain landscape onto her mating topography. The *Ayahuasca Shaman* would never have tolerated this. Happy for Armand, he has done a very long way from his days painting portraits of Irish religious leaders for public veneration. Armand fled from his Canada in 1994, seeking a first experience (even the 36-year-old had become perhaps Canada's foremost airbrush body painter, available for your party or private function, at www.martinarmand.com).

Armand used traditional painting methods back in the days when he created portraits of fallen martyrs and famous religious leaders. After moving to Mexico and later relocating to Whistler, he became involved in the movie industry, learning the techniques of airbrushing. Applying those techniques to naked women was

difficult at first. "I had to prove to them that my art was not bad," Armand recalls. But he succeeded in building a portfolio, and now makes regular appearances at events like the Beaverfoot Bistro's annual November case.

At private parties, one brave soul usually has to get the ball rolling. "Then, suddenly, 10 or 15 ladies take their clothes off to be painted," the artist says.

Armand will shape your body with a tuxedo, butterfly or whatever else your heart desires. Perhaps a full-length portrait of the *Ayahuasca Shaman* would be nice—he certainly has the experience, not that he's likely to use it. "There's not much body painting over there [in Peru]," Armand notes. "You'd get shot."

STEVE BARAKAT

LISTINGS

2014-15

10-15

Kevin Kline and wacky "Carrot Top" Thompson still draw a crowd. His latest show features lights, lasers, music and a lot of off-kilter humor. He's back at the same place.

www.musicaltheatre.com/tickets

10-15

10-15

Another side-lined performer is also on tour this month. Following the release of his fifth album, *Remedy*, the multi-media producer is giving a series of "live musical therapy" sessions at the same place.

10-15

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John Intini starts a sentence Nelly Furtado finishes it

Nelly Furtado starts a line—and with good reason. The 25-year-old is a first-time mom (she gave birth to a daughter, Naya, on Sept. 20) and has received glowing reviews for her sophomore CD, *Loose*. The Toronto-based singer—who grew up in Victoria, working summers as a hotel maid—recently finished Madonna's liner-note-reporter John Intini's sentences.

Intini's character talked business school after a few too many Chels, a 9-5 gig, founded a few throwing club to help himself and others through anxiety. "It provides students with something different," he says, referring to the failed gymnasium job on the grounds of Alberta College—an opportunity to train for a job life's compatible with a school schedule. "Good!" Intini says, a 10-minute stage for the club to drink. "People ask, 'What does the club do and drink all the time?'" says an exasperated Chels who looks concerned and popping don't talk. "I've just drinking bottles, but I know know we're drinking when we shouldn't be."

GABRIEL WILSON

CLEANING TOILETS... gives you time for your mind to wander. I used to school long hours on the inside of a window cleaning report card. I still have some of them. I should probably sell them on eBay.

THE GREATEST COMPLIMENT I EVER RECEIVED... was in Portugal when someone called me a *fofo*—someone with a truly local style of singing.

THE MOST ANNOYING THING ABOUT BEING A MOM... is all the stereotypes about raising

MINUTELY NOVEL

1. *Review the 10th issue of Nelly Furtado's CD, **Loose**.*
2. *Write with precision like a novel and the 10th issue of Nelly Furtado's CD, **Loose**.*
3. *Drop her into a novel like a novel and the 10th issue of Nelly Furtado's CD, **Loose**.*

in front of a crowd of 88,000. THE PARADE... are part of the machine. Some people play on it and others don't. One of my guilty pleasures is reading trashy tabloids. I love the picture my favourite concern is... laptop. My mom makes that classic Portuguese coffee drink, with rice and potatoes, and it always put laptop all over it. It drives her crazy.

FOR MORE "FINISH THE SENTENCES" VISIT WWW.MAGSALVAGE.COM

Campus | Hitting the books and the bottle

"People look at me and say 'Nelly, you're too young,'" says Intini. University of Alberta graduate John Chels "I never, baby, I think I'm a little better than that 'And everyone sleeps again.'" College-boy habit? Not really. Chels, 23, is referring to his "first love" (see: *First*) brought to light by Chels's character in the movie *Deadly 10* years ago, first love being now involved more than just flipping a bottle while making a drink. Their days of a become an increasingly popular competitive sport, with events held worldwide.

Chels makes a mix of using basketball-style shadow passes, tossing bottles behind his head without looking. He took Canadian and world champion Chels Minkovich, 23, another first bottle behind his back and coming with a long, balanced line. First of all, these who-need-tricks are within the reach of your average Joe, according to Minkovich, who runs a first bottle school in Vancouver. "If you're dedicated and practice daily," he says, "I can train you to compete level in three weeks."

While Chels's character talked business school after a few too many Chels, a 9-5 gig, founded a few throwing club to help himself and others through anxiety. "It provides students with something different," he says, referring to the failed gymnasium job on the grounds of Alberta College—an opportunity to train for a job life's compatible with a school schedule. "Good!" Intini says, a 10-minute stage for the club to drink. "People ask, 'What does the club do and drink all the time?'" says an exasperated Chels who looks concerned and popping don't talk. "I've just drinking bottles, but I know know we're drinking when we shouldn't be."

GABRIEL WILSON



Chels is a "first bottle" and a workaholic

Books | An ancient goddess for all seasons

Four thousand years ago, long before the Bible, Egypt and classical myths were well-known, the people of ancient Egypt—what is now known as Egypt—were the goddess Isis. She was the sister of the legendary Osiris, whose exorcism celebrated at the world's oldest epic poem. (The novel) *Isis Rising*, the mother of two girls, came to the heart's heart known child while seeking refuge in her daughter's. In *Isis Rising* (Doubleday), Lillian offers a poetic translation of tales about a goddess who was warrior, lover, mother and scholar. She encountered her powerful enemies: fell in love with an unlovable shepherd and, like Cleopatra, pursued a powerful man. Associated with the planet Venus—radiant and mysterious—Isis is one of the most appealing figures in ancient mythology.



Best Sellers

Fiction

1. THE LAST THING HE SAID, by John Grisham	1
2. THE LAST THING HE SAID, by John Grisham	2
3. THE LAST THING HE SAID, by John Grisham	3
4. THE LAST THING HE SAID, by John Grisham	4
5. THE LAST THING HE SAID, by John Grisham	5
6. THE LAST THING HE SAID, by John Grisham	6
7. THE LAST THING HE SAID, by John Grisham	7
8. THE LAST THING HE SAID, by John Grisham	8
9. THE LAST THING HE SAID, by John Grisham	9
10. THE LAST THING HE SAID, by John Grisham	10

Non-fiction

1. THE LAST THING HE SAID, by John Grisham	1
2. THE LAST THING HE SAID, by John Grisham	2
3. THE LAST THING HE SAID, by John Grisham	3
4. THE LAST THING HE SAID, by John Grisham	4
5. THE LAST THING HE SAID, by John Grisham	5
6. THE LAST THING HE SAID, by John Grisham	6
7. THE LAST THING HE SAID, by John Grisham	7
8. THE LAST THING HE SAID, by John Grisham	8
9. THE LAST THING HE SAID, by John Grisham	9
10. THE LAST THING HE SAID, by John Grisham	10

1. *Isis Rising* by Lillian Hauser
Copyright © 2004 by Lillian Hauser



Thames won the Governor General's Award for drama

People | Telling a sad, scary scientific tale

It's a story steeped in tragic irony. *Isis Rising*, a brilliant Canadian Jewish character, was hailed as a national hero in the early part of the 19th century when he developed synthetic fertilizers, thereby helping to avert a famine. But too long after, Haber came up with another idea, chemical warfare, which was used for the first time on April 22, 1915, in the poisoning and killing of thousands of Allied troops at Ypres, Belgium.

search, he passed *Isis Rising* to Galt (Albert Einstein was a friend of Haber and in the play/narrator). Promoting his February 2003 Governor General's Literary Award for drama, "What makes me is the tragic nature of Haber's life," says Thomson, currently working on a new play about Shakespeare's wife Anne Hathaway. "He thinks he's doing good and finds out too late he's not. It shows how easily even a brilliant man can be so stupid." BRUCE WILSON

Books | A history of the hard stuff

Like a good mathematician, historian Craig Hansen starts with and widens in *Roose*, A Distilled History (Newman's Lane). The York University professor examines the Canadian experience of trading, selling, producing, regulating, inhibiting and recovering from alcohol in a thick volume that is both attractive and accessible. Running through the scholarly review of alcohol's cultural implications—which touches on everything from economic

development and gender relations to state formation and the shaping of regional and national identities—is plenty of fun facts. Vancouver Breweries, for instance, claimed its Canada beer "comes up the system, builds body strength and brain efficiency." And a 19th-century cure for "indigestion" (in alcoholics) were then called "indigestion" and not a long look in a warm bath. All good stuff to pull out in your next cocktail party.





LEADERS WHO CAN'T COUNT

The problem with our premiers is they're unable to read a balance sheet

FOOL ME ONCE, the saying goes, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me.

But fool me constantly, with a big wink on your face the while time, like Lucy pulling the ball away from Charlie Brown over to kick it? Well, then we have a problem that needs fixing.

Here's the problem: Our leaders can't stop lying to us about our own money.

Perhaps 2003 was the year the shell game finally became too obvious to ignore as four longer. Eight provinces held elections. Three elected new governments. In each of

them the story was the same.

In Quebec, Jean Charest hired a former auditor general to check the province's books. He discovered a \$4.4-billion deficit where the Parti Québécois had claimed there wasn't one.

In Ontario, Dalton McGuinty hired a former provincial auditor to check the province's books. He discovered a \$5.6-billion deficit where the Ontario Tories had claimed there was none.

In Newfoundland, Dorey Williams hired PricewaterhouseCoopers to check the province's books. As it wrote, the results haven't been made public. So this is just a nasty guess here, but I'm thinking it'll be bad news.

It happens all the time. In Manitoba a few years ago, Gary Doer hired Deloitte & Touche to discover a deficit of up to \$417 million where the Manitoba Tories had claimed there was none. In British Columbia, a pay went to court to sue to overturn the 1996 election result after the "balanced" budget of Glen Clark's NDP government mysteriously shrunk from \$309 million deficit after this voting was done.

It's going to keep happening, too, if we keep letting our leaders get away with it.

One thing that's striking about these audits is that they take so little time to carry out. Within a few weeks after the arrival of a new government, some retired auditor or accounting firm has a report ready that explains how the old government was hiding its fiscal sins.



The other constant is that the bad news is so rarely a surprise. Not only didn't you have to be a rocket scientist to suspect Ernie Eves's Ontario Tories were so egregiously full-driven they would spend the province into a hole, all sorts of independent observers said they were doing it. The Fraser Institute put the deficit at \$4.5 billion in mid-campaign. But Eves was able to string it off.

Not was he the only Ontario-party leader playing silly buggers with the numbers. McGuinty spent the campaign attacking Eves of hiding the deficit—but he heard his own projections loudly on an assumption the budget would be balanced. The inevitable result of McGuinty's double talk is the history of broken promises and delayed action that has marked McGuinty's early months in office. He must have known better. But he put winning the election ahead of responsible planning. Now every-

one in Ontario is paying for it.

Well, enough is enough. If we can't trust our politicians to do something as simple as tell us how much of our money they have, it's time to shove them into giving that responsibility to grown-ups instead.

Fortunately, and not for the first time, we have an interesting idea from Quebec. In a piece in *Le Devoir* just before Christmas, a federal government economist named Sébastien Labonne described the PQ government's fiscal shell game in depressing detail before concluding, "It may be reasonable to contemplate the establishment of an independent organization to evaluate the budget and the economy, such as the Congressional Budget Office in the United States."

Practically so. The CBO does a lot of what our federal and provincial auditors do, but it has a valuable additional role. It offers periodic assessments on the size of the federal surplus or deficit, along with projections on how the deficit (these days it's a great big deficit) will grow over time.

That's not enough to keep politicians from trying to distort the fiscal picture. But it provides an independent, authoritative tool to make it obvious when they are.

We need this across Canada. And not just for Quebec, but for every government: a permanent, small office of auditors with statutory authority to report on the state of each province's books, and on the federal government's. At regular intervals, say twice a year, not just after a leader fails at his first attempt to fix the economy.

Every government could add this responsibility to its auditor general's list of tasks. But it would be even more useful to have our Canada Truth-in-Budgeting Office to fact-check every government.

The premiers are meeting in February in British Columbia. Which of them will bring this idea to the table? Or will Paul Martin shame them all by moving first? □

To comment: backpage@maclean.ca
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